TRIGUN
MAXIMUM
SILENT RUIN
8
TRIGUN MAXIMUM
YASUHIRO NIGHTOW
DEEP SPACE PLANET FUTURE GUN ACTION!!
内藤泰弘
YASUHIRO NIGHTOW

YOUNG KING COMICS

TRIGUN MAXIMUM

トライガン・マキシマム

SILENT RUIN 8

TRIGUN MAXIMUM
DEEP SPACE PLANET
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FUTURE GUN ACTION!!

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TRIGUN MAXIMUM ULTIMATE VOL 08:
SILENT RUIN

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TRIGUN MAXIMUM
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トライガン・マキシマム
内藤泰弘
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THIS PLACE IS REALLY RUNNING LOW AFTER WHAT HAPPENED.

I'M GONNA GET OUTTA HERE ON THE NEXT STEAMER.

BUT WHAT CAN YA DO?

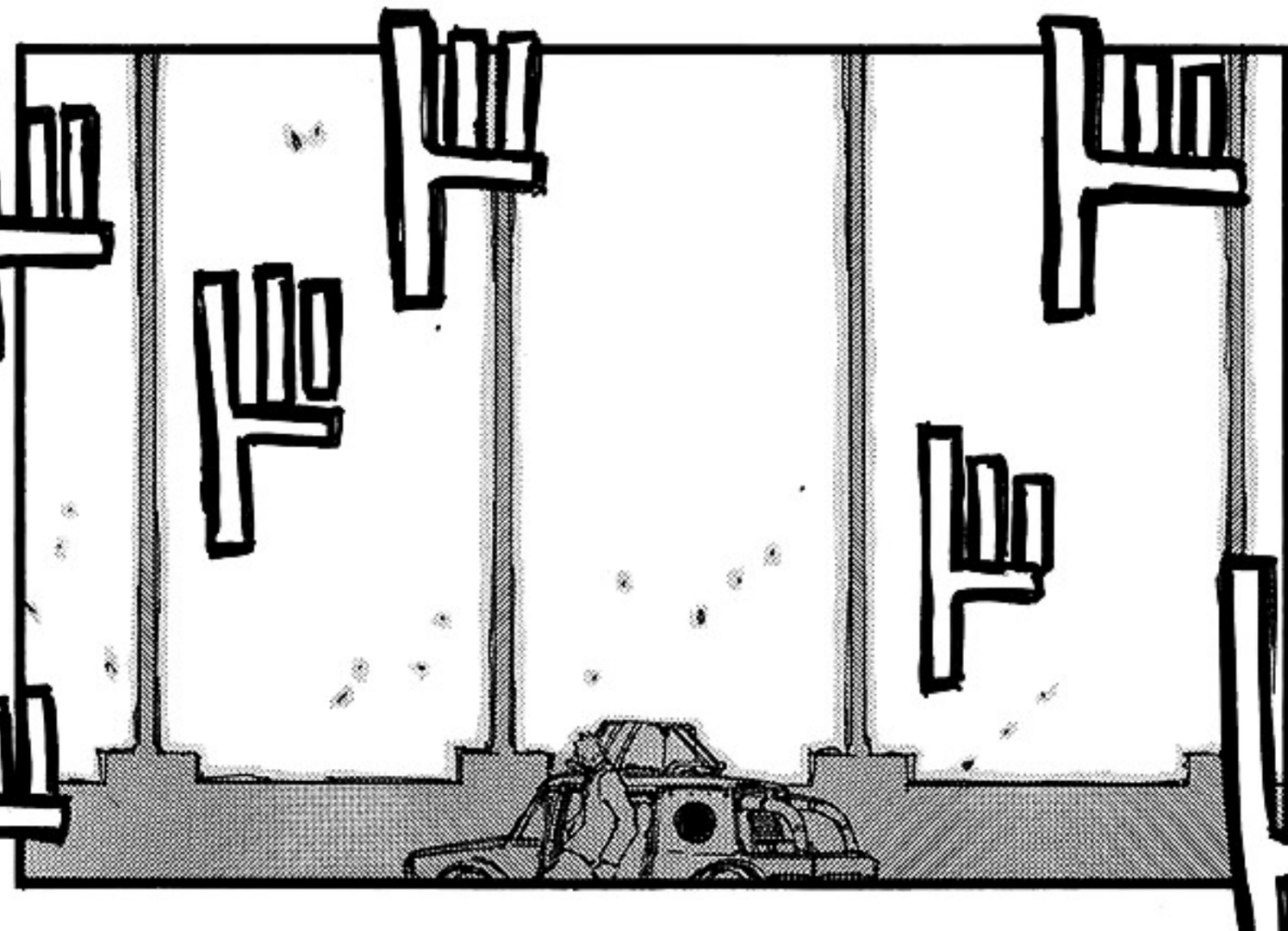
LET'S GO, BUDDY.

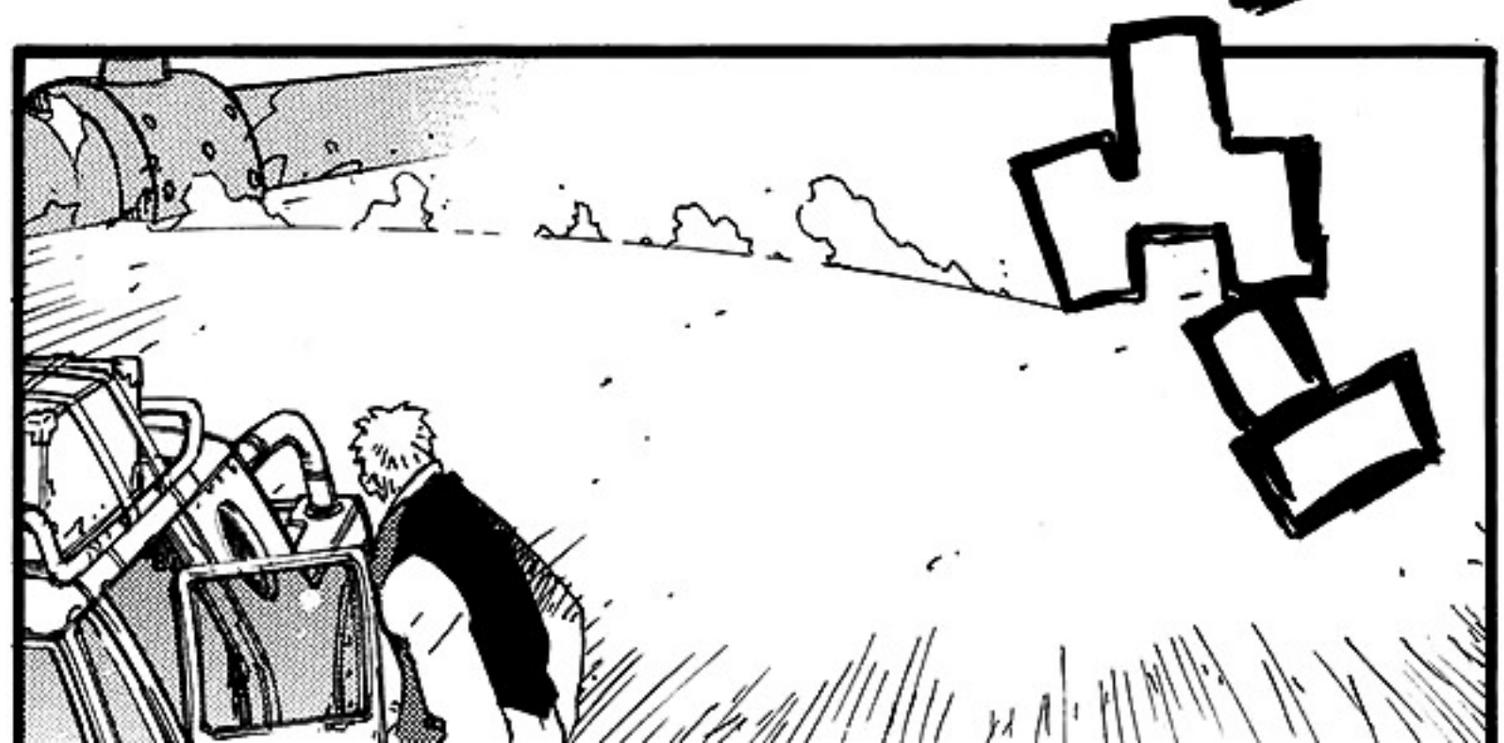
WE'LL CATCH THE STEAMER ON THE OTHER SIDE OF THE BRIDGE.

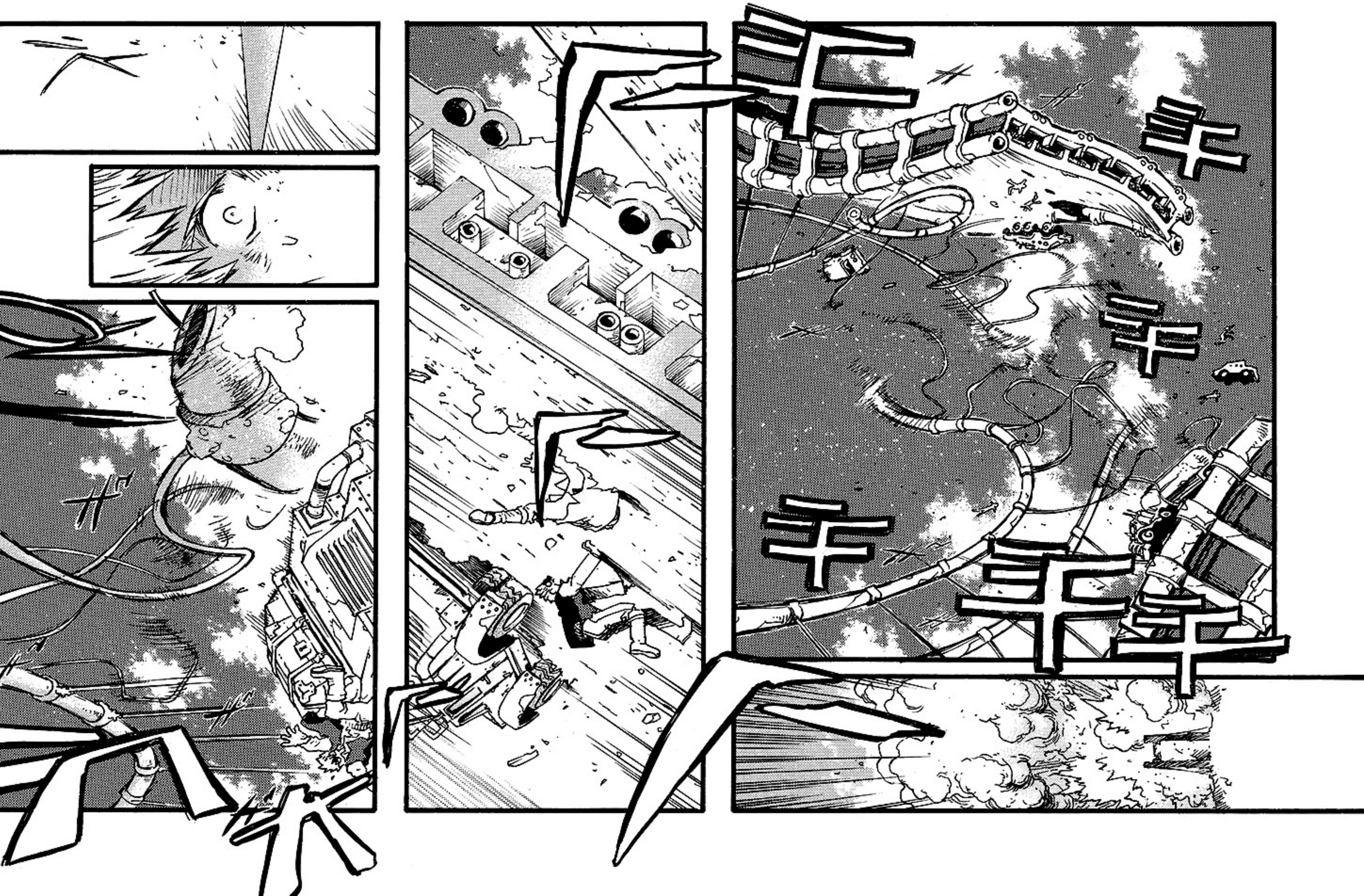
SIGH

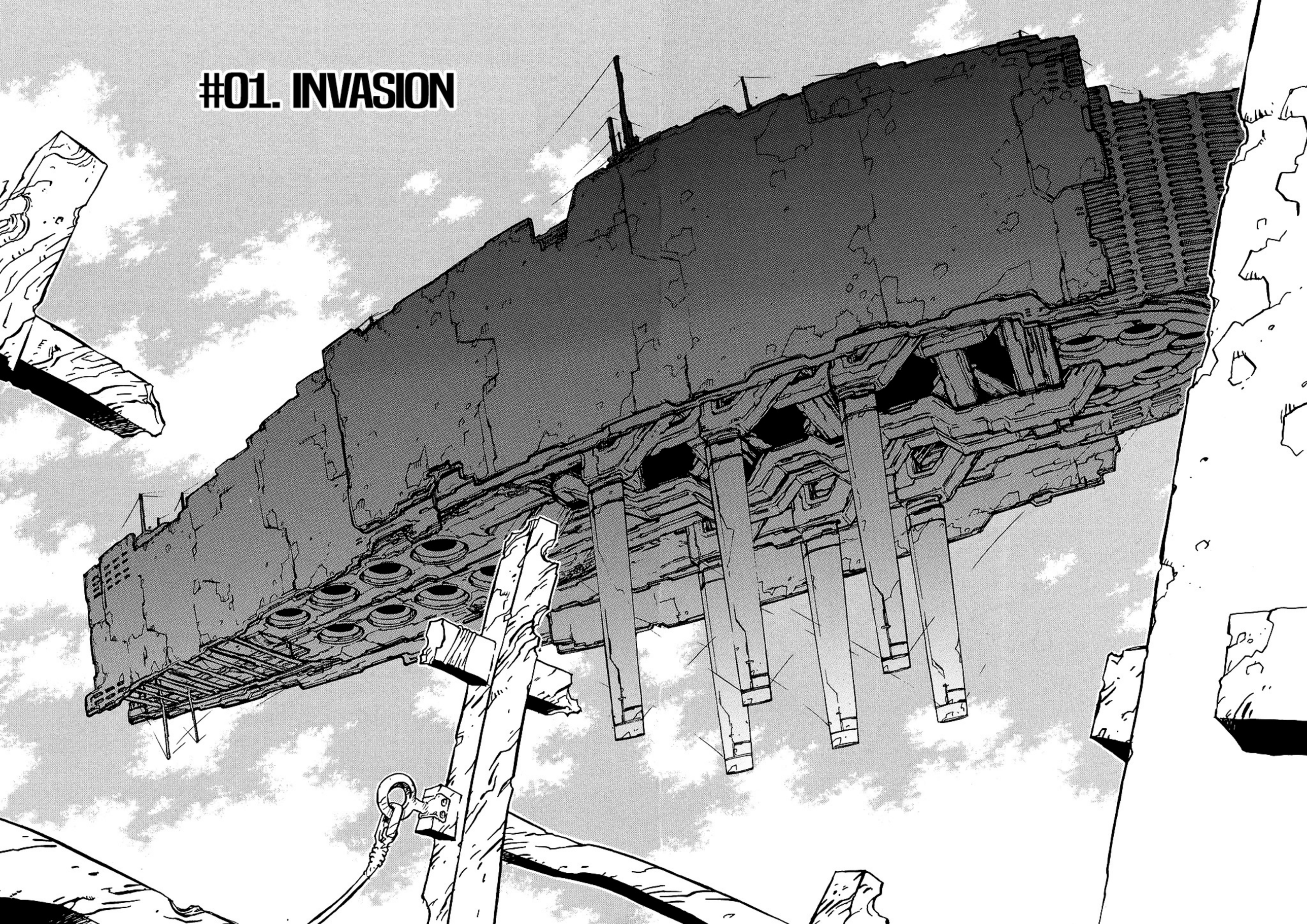
I WONDER HOW MUCH LONGER...

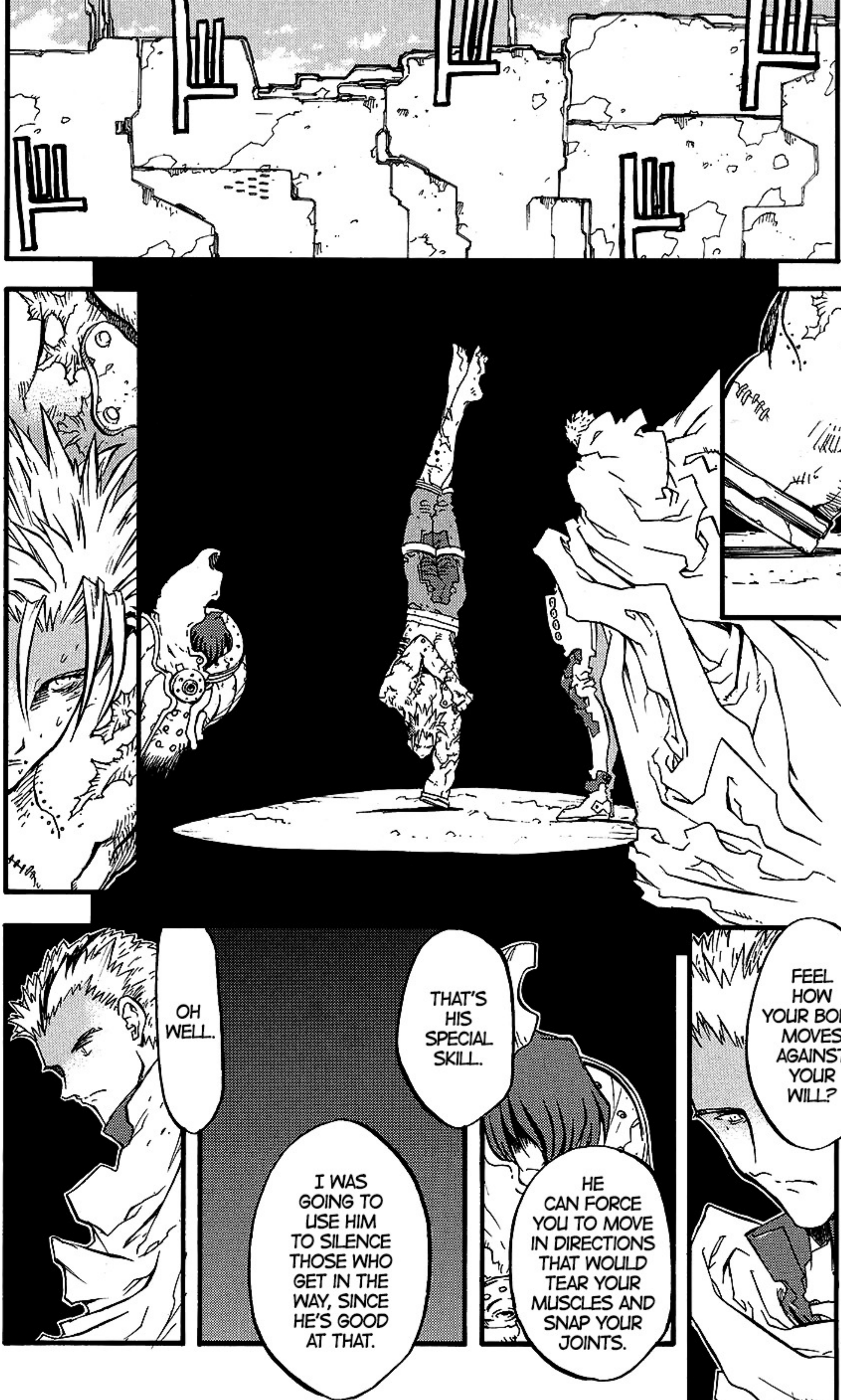
?!








#01. INVASION


OH WELL.
THAT'S HIS SPECIAL SKILL.
I WAS GOING TO USE HIM TO SILENCE THOSE WHO GET IN THE WAY, SINCE HE'S GOOD AT THAT.
HE CAN FORCE YOU TO MOVE IN DIRECTIONS THAT WOULD TEAR YOUR MUSCLES AND SNAP YOUR JOINTS.
FEEL HOW YOUR BODY MOVES AGAINST YOUR WILL?

THANKS TO *YOU*, DURING THAT TIME, *MANY* OF OUR SISTERS HAVE BEEN OPPRESSED AND MURDERED...
...HAVE PASSED...
150 YEARS...
YOU DON'T *GET IT*, VASH.
I HAVE SEEN THEM THROW OUR SPENT CORPSES AWAY LIKE *GARBAGE*.
HUMANS DO *NOTHING* BUT SUCK THE LIFE OUT OF YOU.
BUT...
THEY *WERE* THE BODIES OF PLANTS WHO HAD BEEN *ABUSED* AND *PUSHED* PAST THEIR LIMITS.
THEY *WEREN'T* THE BODIES OF PLANTS WHO HAD LIVED THEIR NATURAL LIFESPAN.
BELIEVE ME, KNIVES, I *HAVE SEEN* THE DEAD PLANTS.
ALL OF THEM HAD THE BLACK HAIR.

DO YOU UNDER-STAND?

THEY ARE *FORCED*...

...TO RELY ON PLANTS... ON *US*.

...THERE IS *NO OTHER* WAY FOR HUMANS TO LIVE ON THIS BARREN DESERT PLANET.

IF THE HUMANS HADN'T BEEN *FORCED* INTO LIVES OF DROUGHT AND HARDSHIP ON THIS DESERT PLANET...

...THEN THE PLANTS...

...WOULD *NEVER* HAVE BEEN EXPLOITED THIS WAY BECAUSE THERE WAS *NO OTHER CHOICE.*

YOU'RE QUICK TO FORGET, KNIVES...

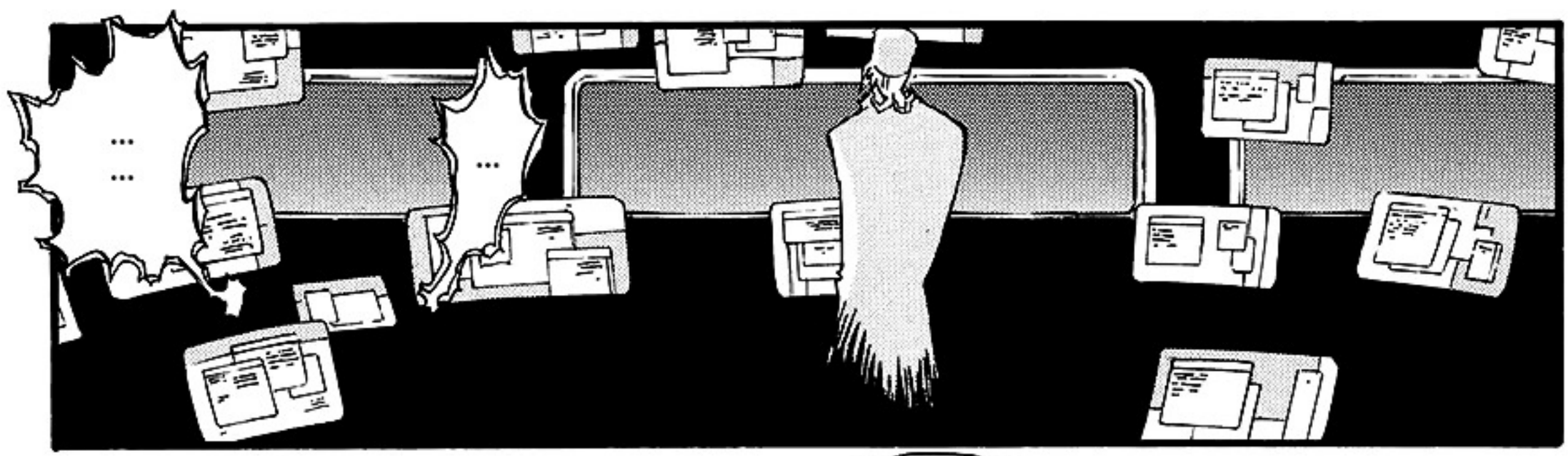
...THAT *YOU* CAUSED ALL OF THIS.

...WAS THE BIG FALL!

THE REASON FOR ALL OF THIS... THE ONE THING THAT STARTED THIS...

GA AA AH!!
GUH!
GA AA AH!
AA AA AA AH!
AA AA AA AH!
...
...
...

CLINK
...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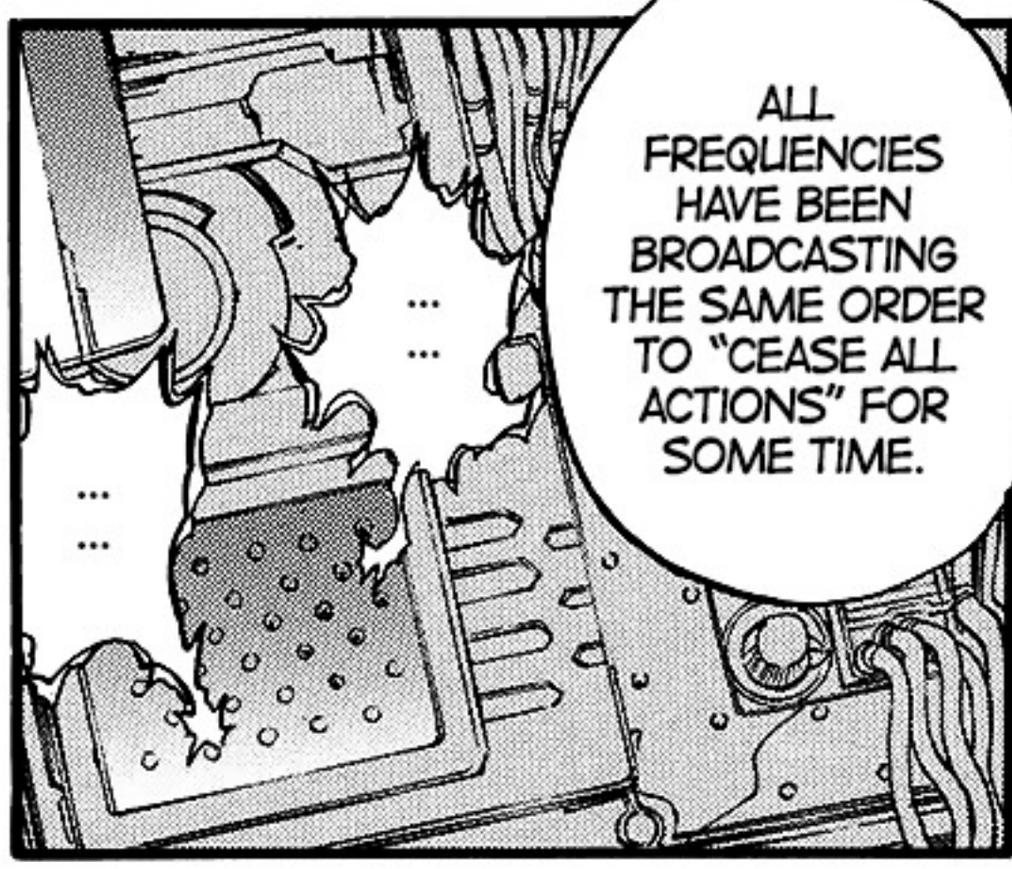
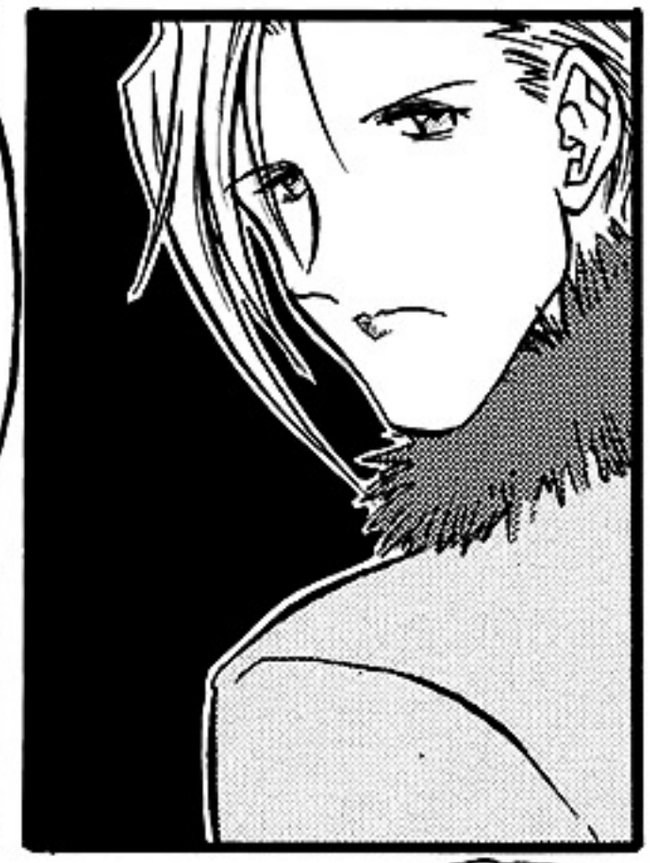
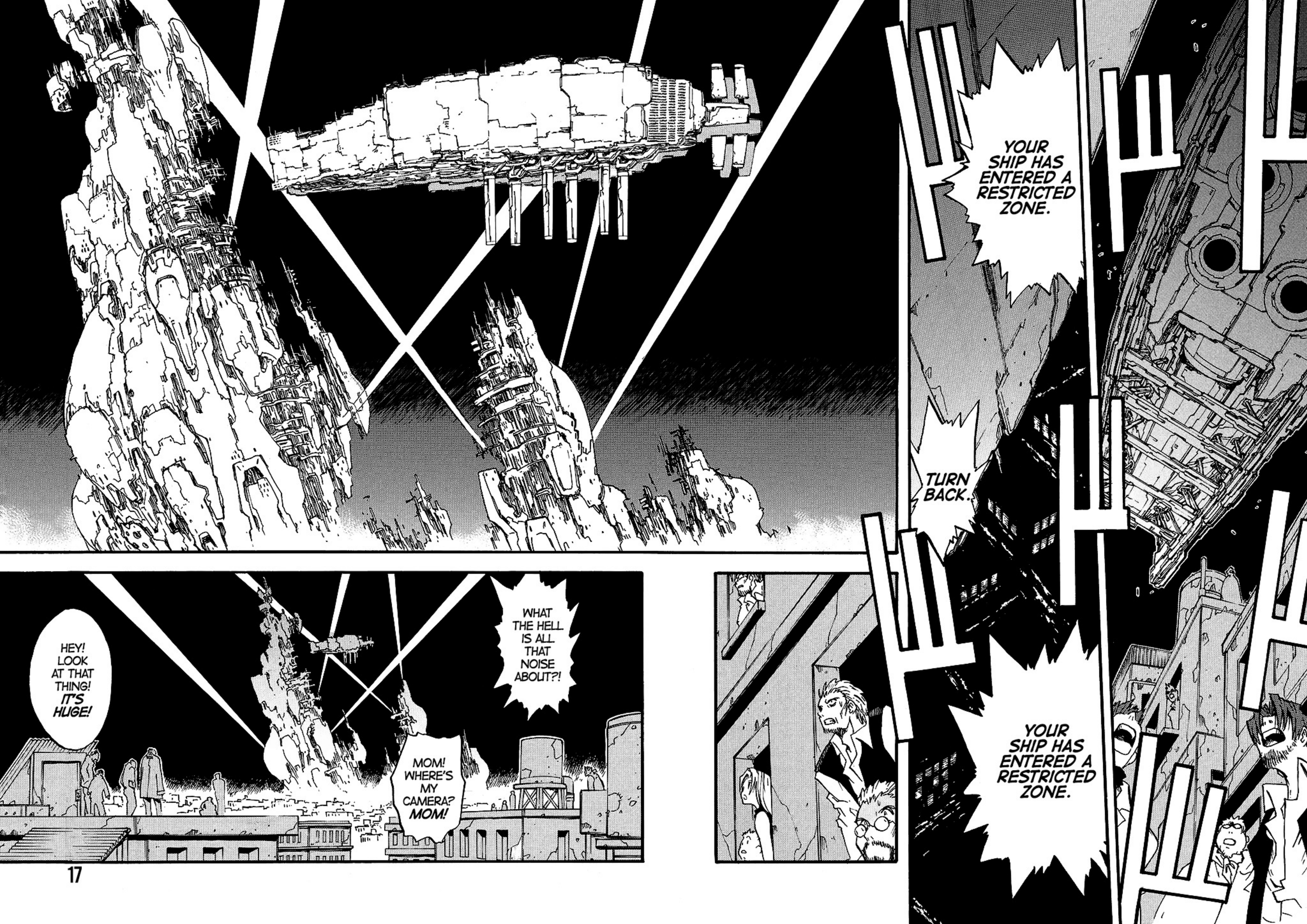
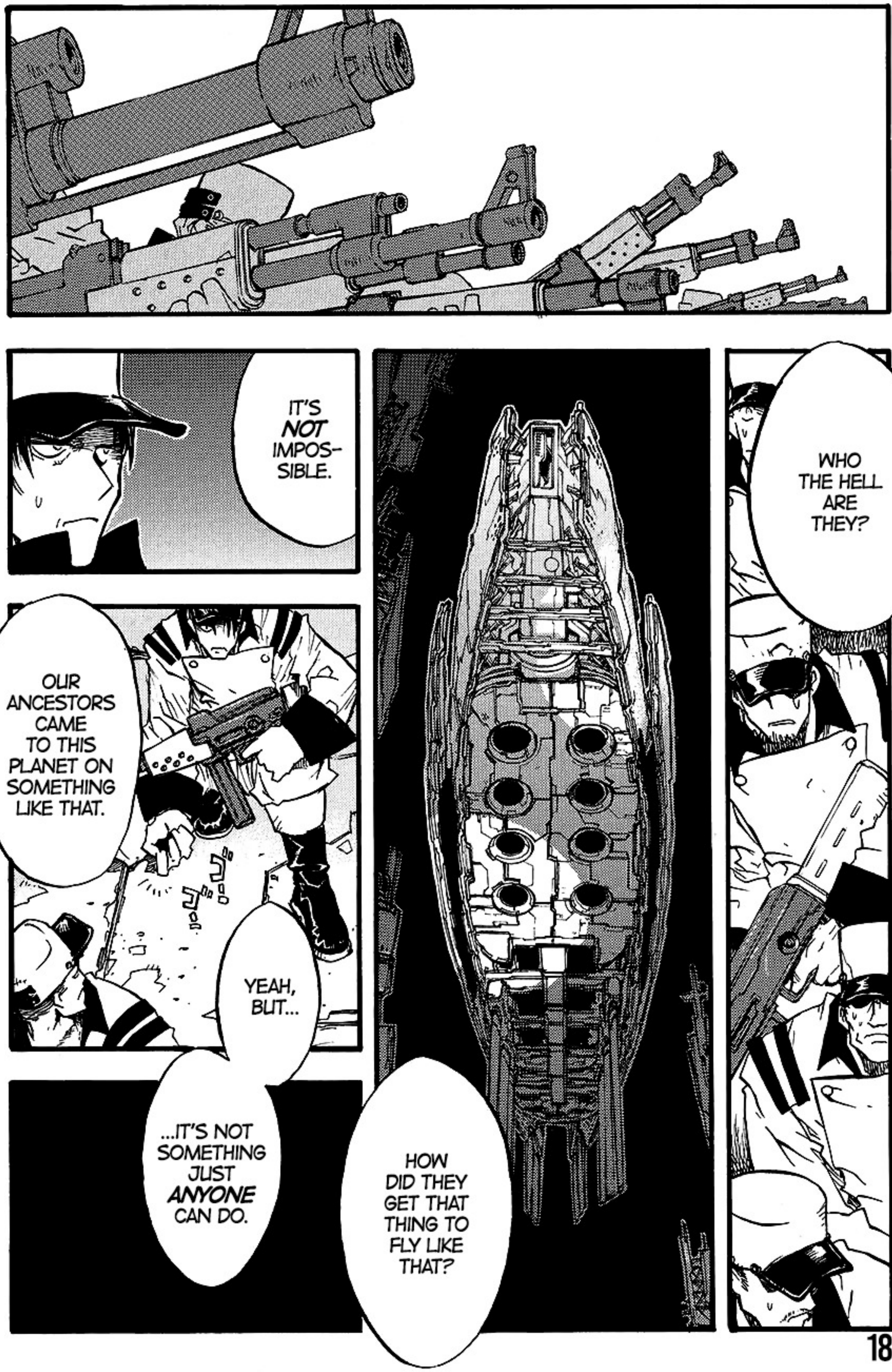

ALL FREQUENCIES HAVE BEEN BROADCASTING THE SAME ORDER TO "CEASE ALL ACTIONS" FOR SOME TIME.
...
...
...
...



DO YOU BELIEVE THEY'RE ABOUT TO OPEN FIRE?
NO DOUBT.
THEN LET'S DEPLOY THE "CLEAN-UP CREW."
THERE WILL BE SCREAMS AND SHOUTS AND THEN THERE WILL BE SILENCE.
BUT IT IS ONLY THE BEGINNING.
...
...
...
...

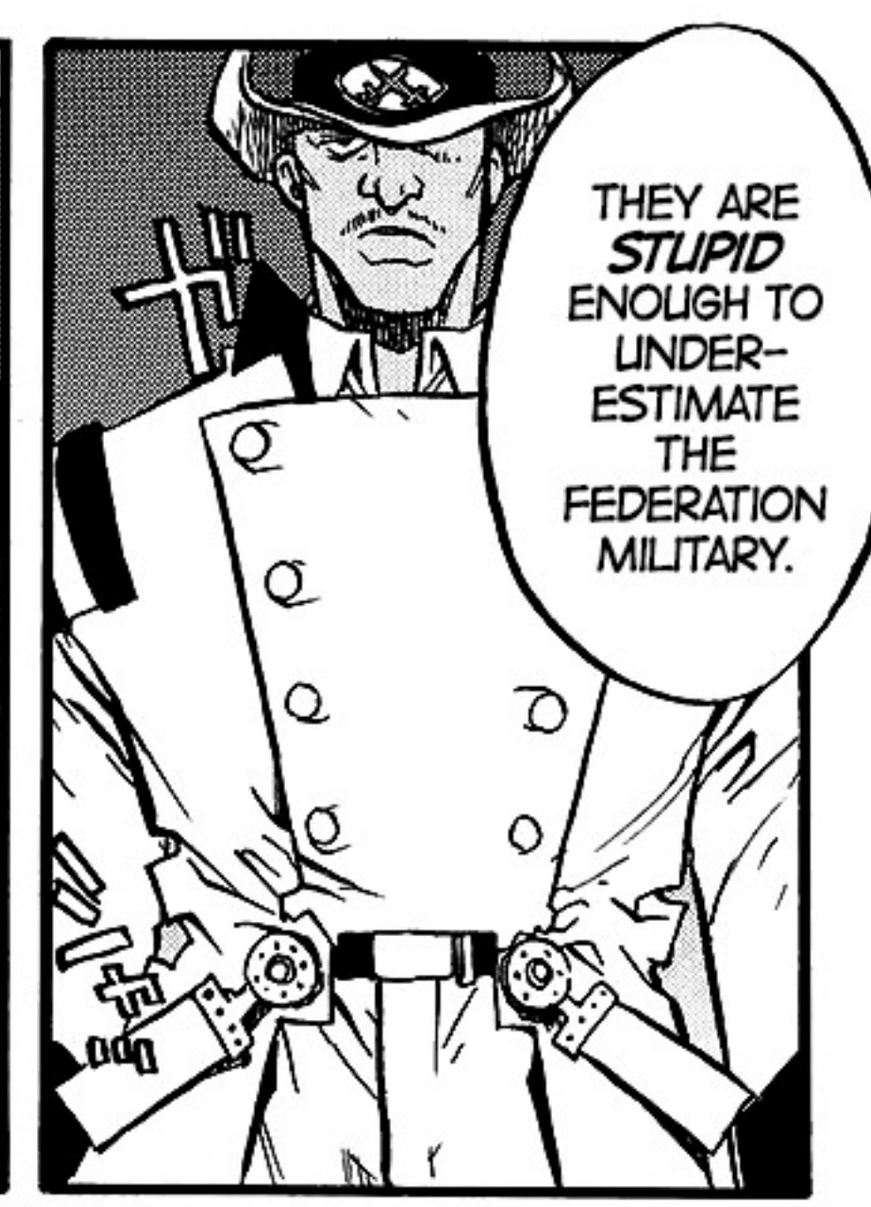

HEY! LOOK AT THAT THING! IT'S HUGE!
WHAT THE HELL IS ALL THAT NOISE ABOUT?!
MOM! WHERE'S MY CAMERA? MOM!
YOUR SHIP HAS ENTERED A RESTRICTED ZONE.
TURN BACK..
YOUR SHIP HAS ENTERED A RESTRICTED ZONE.


IT'S NOT IMPOS-SIBLE.
OUR ANCESTORS CAME TO THIS PLANET ON SOMETHING LIKE THAT.
YEAH, BUT...
...IT'S NOT SOMETHING JUST ANYONE CAN DO.
HOW DID THEY GET THAT THING TO FLY LIKE THAT?
WHO THE HELL ARE THEY?

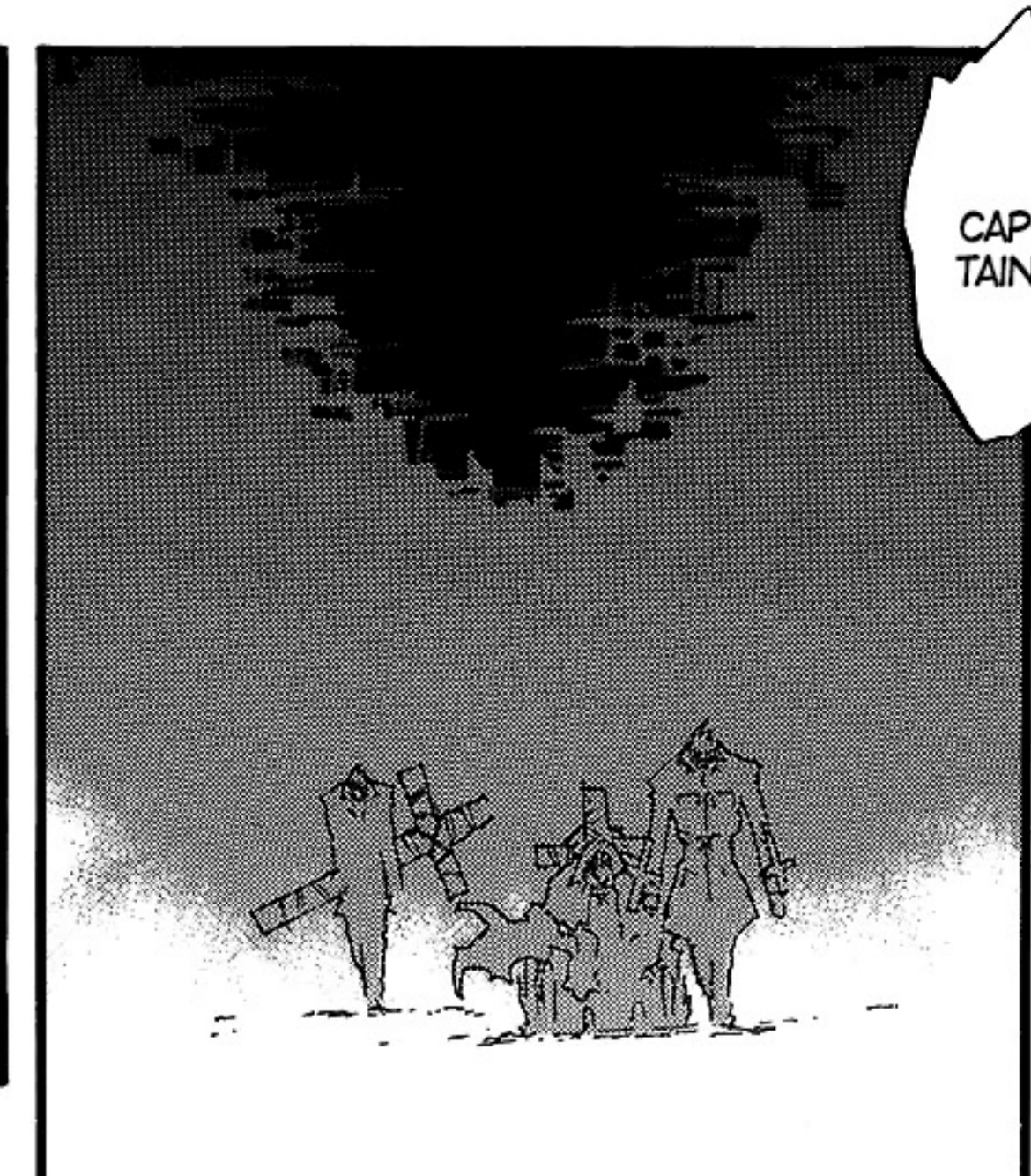
BUT...!

THEY SEEM TO KNOW LOST TECHNO-LOGY...
MAYBE THEY GOT A LOT OF MONEY?

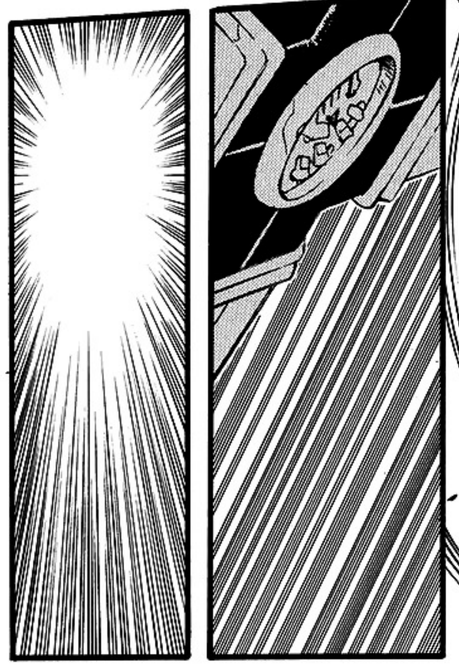
SOME HOOLIGANS LIKE TO THINK THIS WORLD IS *STILL* LAWLESS.
WE'LL TEACH THEM THAT THE FRONTIER DAYS ARE *OVER*.


THEY ARE *STUPID* ENOUGH TO UNDER-ESTIMATE THE FEDERATION MILITARY.

...!
READY! *OPEN FIRE!*


CAP-TAIN!

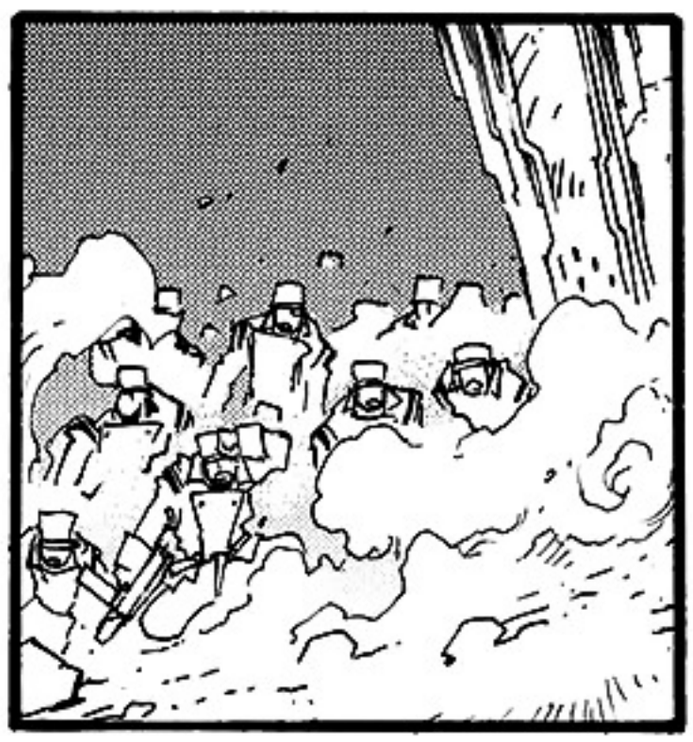
AAAH!

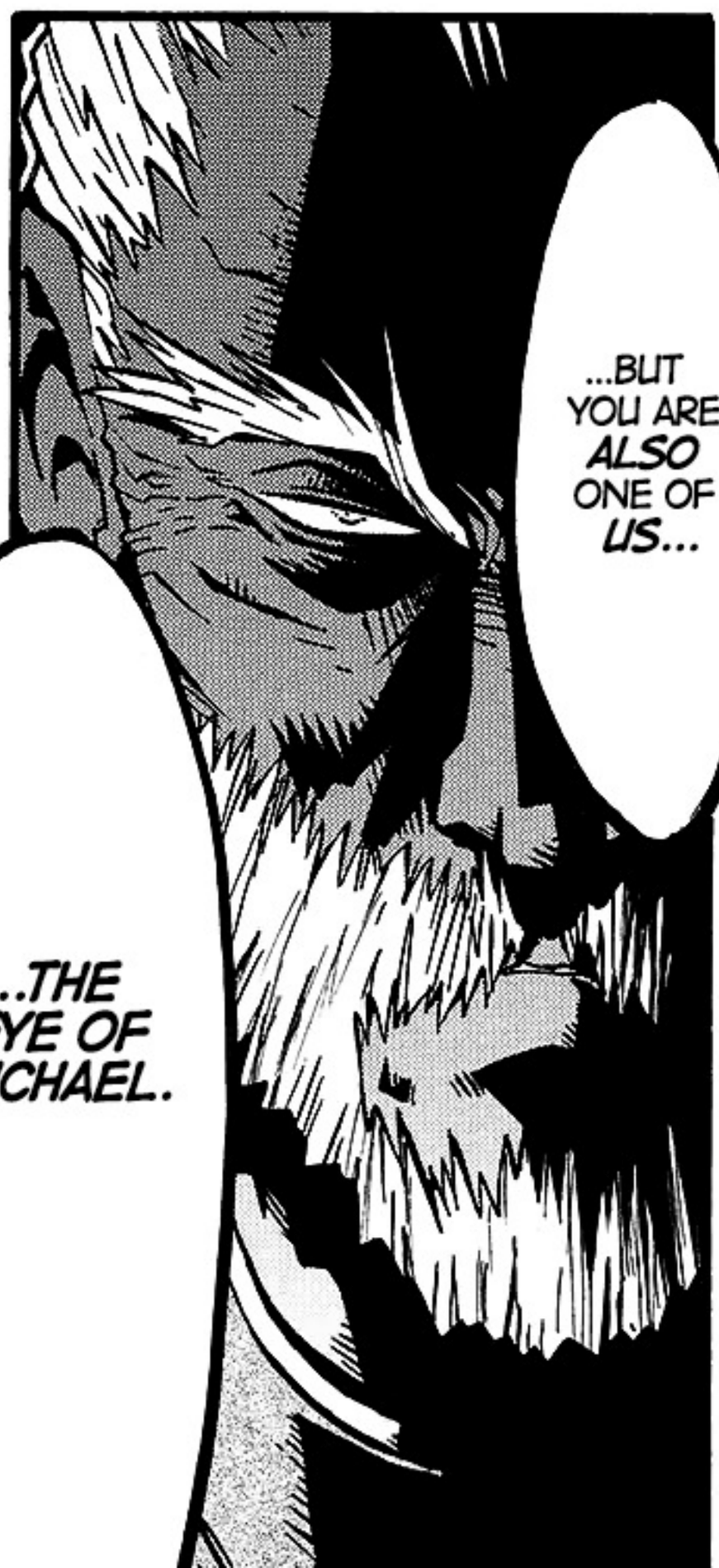


YOU ARE TOO SOFT, NICHOLAS.
I KNOW I TAUGHT YOU TO KILL WITH PRECISION, EFFICIENCY, AND WITHOUT MERCY.
HA HA HA HA
HEH HEH HEH HEH
I KNOW YOU HAVE IT IN YOU, THAT LOOK SAYS IT ALL.
THE SAME LOOK YOU HAD WHEN YOU PUT THAT BULLET IN ME.
... ...
COME NOW.
YOU ALWAYS WILL BE.
DON'T FORGET YOU'RE STILL ONE OF US.

STOP WASTING TIME, YOU FOOL!

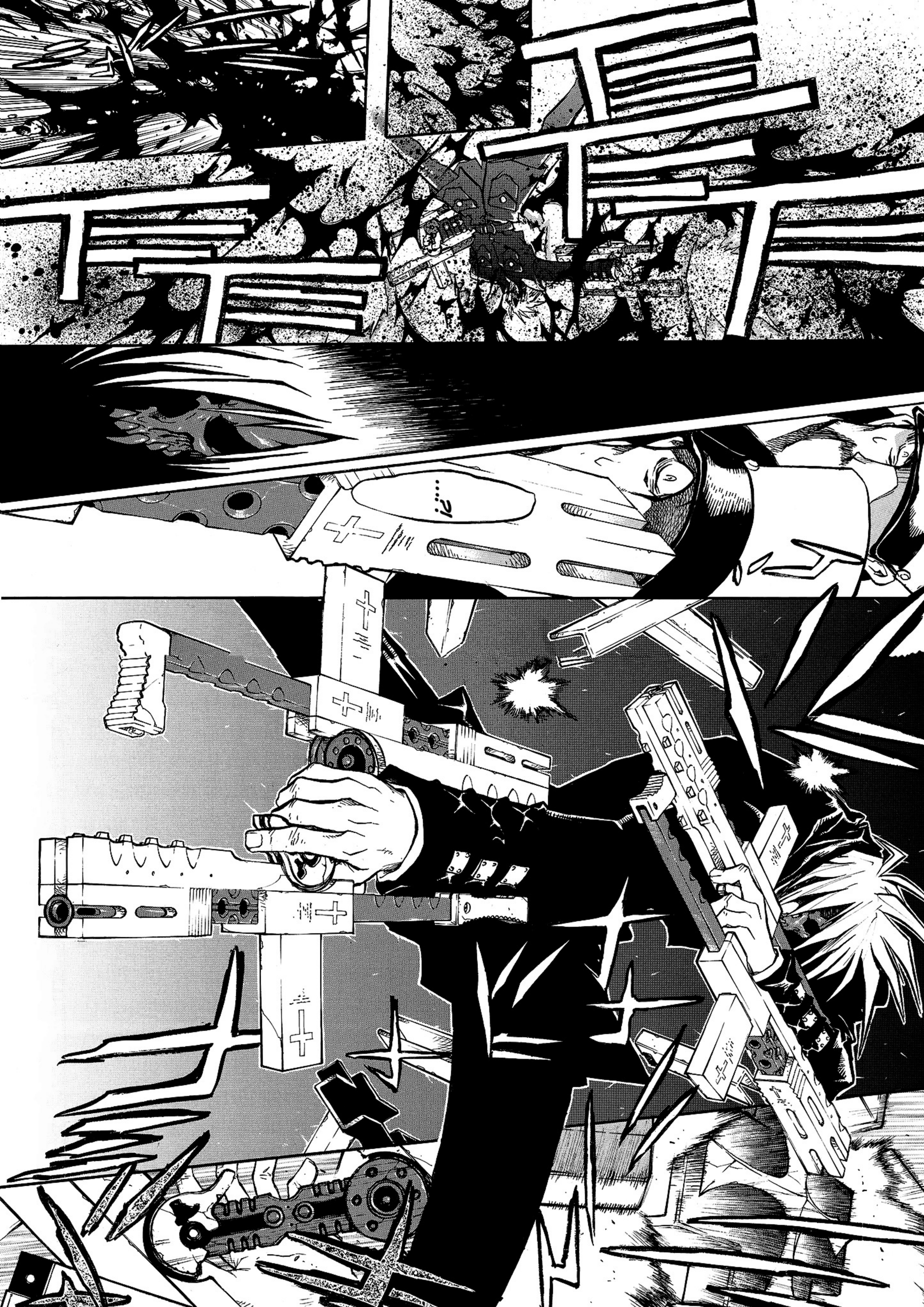
NOW... ARE YOU GOING TO KILL THEM OR NOT?



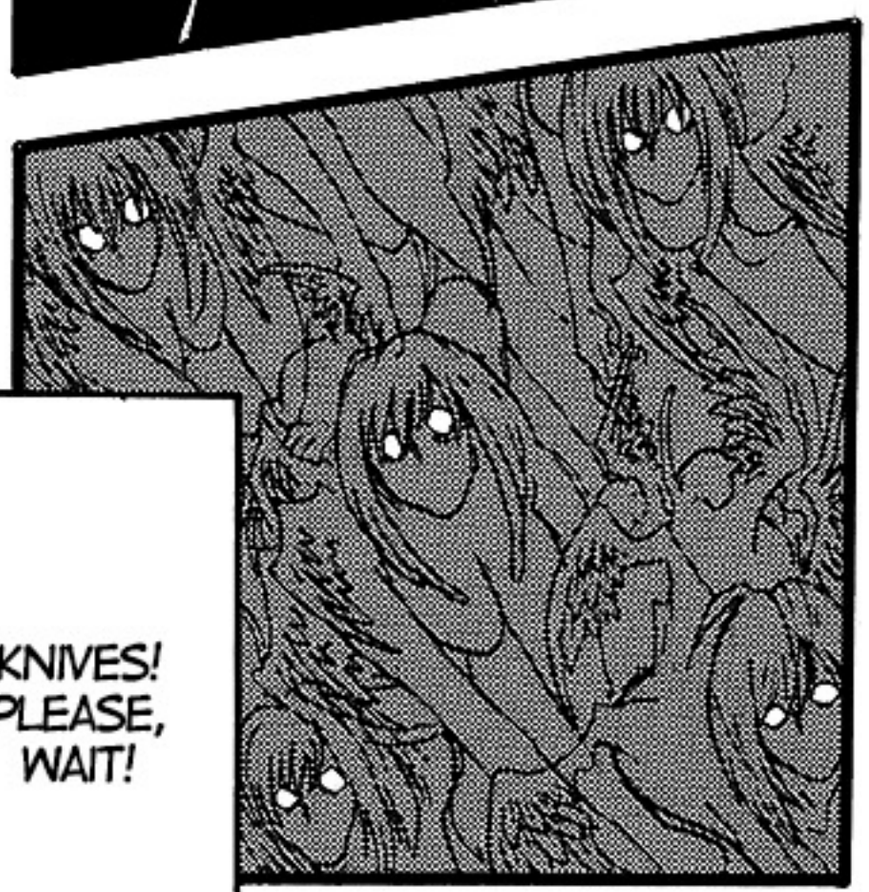

...BUT YOU ARE *ALSO* ONE OF *US*...
...THE EYE OF MICHAEL.

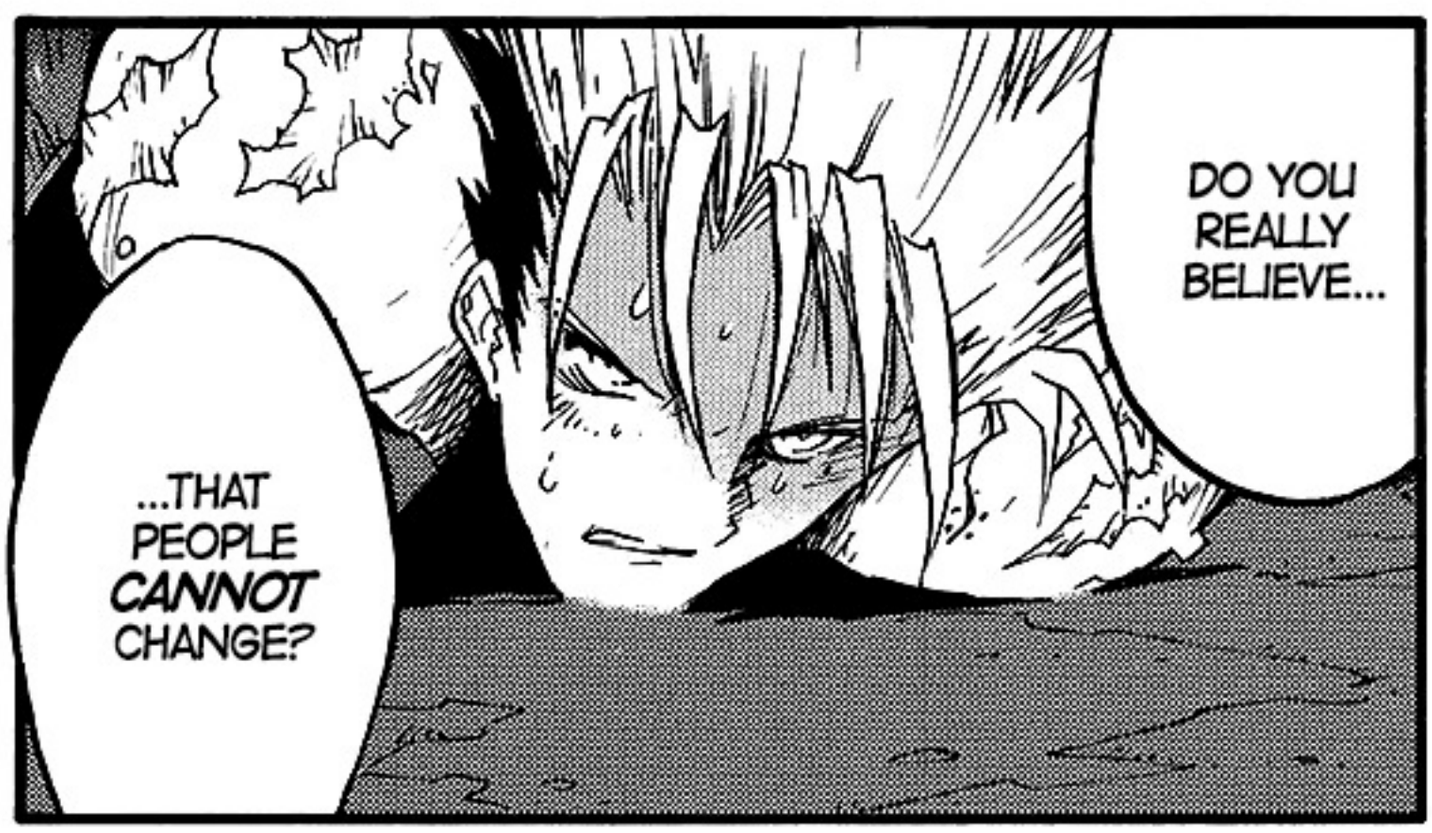
DON'T THINK YOU CAN JUST *CONVENIENTLY* SHED YOUR ENTIRE IDENTITY WHENEVER YOU WISH.
NOT ONLY ARE YOU A MEMBER OF THE GUNG-HO GUNS...

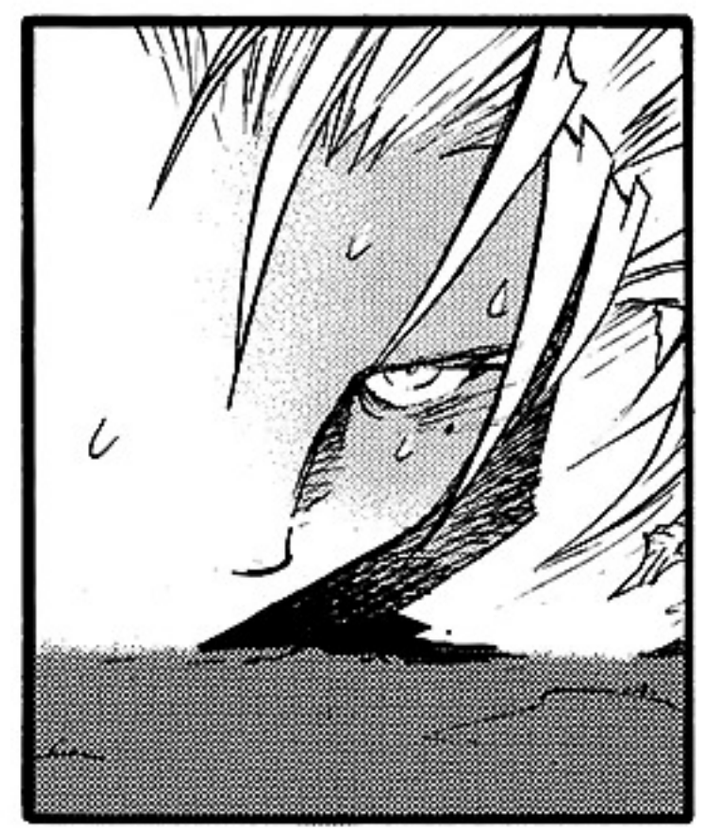
HUH?

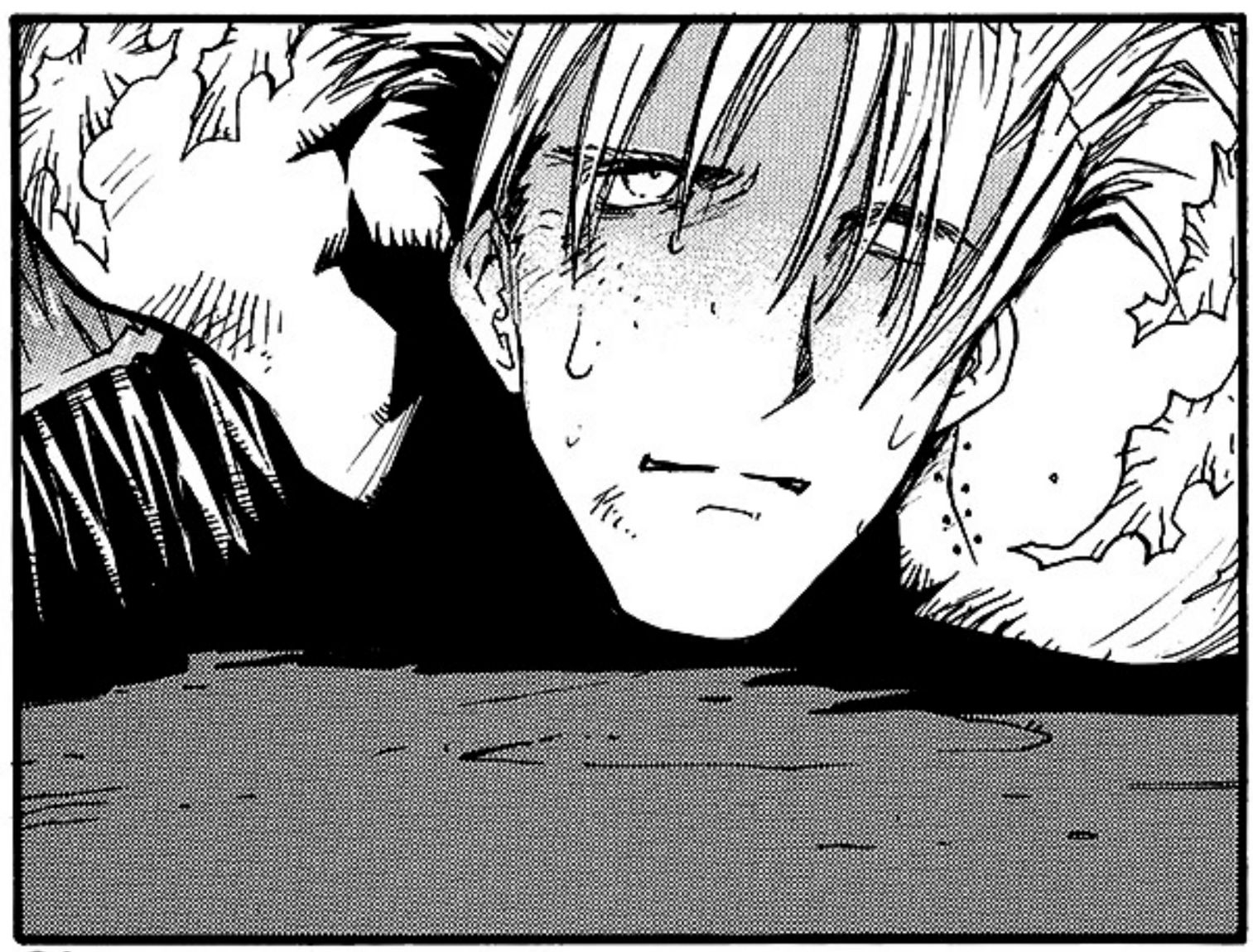


THE SLAUGHTER IS ALREADY OVER.
THAT'S ENOUGH!
TELL HIM TO STOP!
HEH HEH HEH
IT'S TOO LATE.
THERE ARE TIMES WHERE LIFE IS HARDER THAN DEATH.
AND THAT TIME HAS JUST BEGUN.
THEY HAVE BEEN SENT TO A BETTER PLACE.
THEY ARE THE LUCKY ONES.
THOSE POOR SOULS...

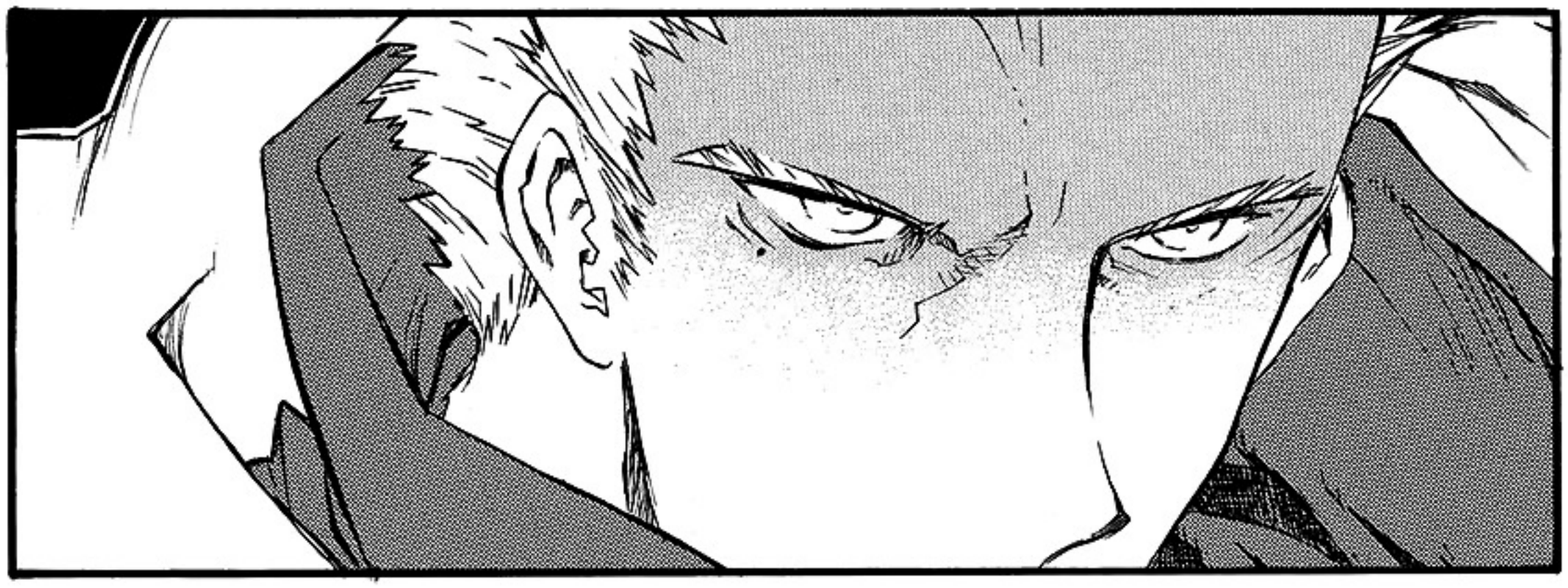

KNIVES! PLEASE, WAIT!

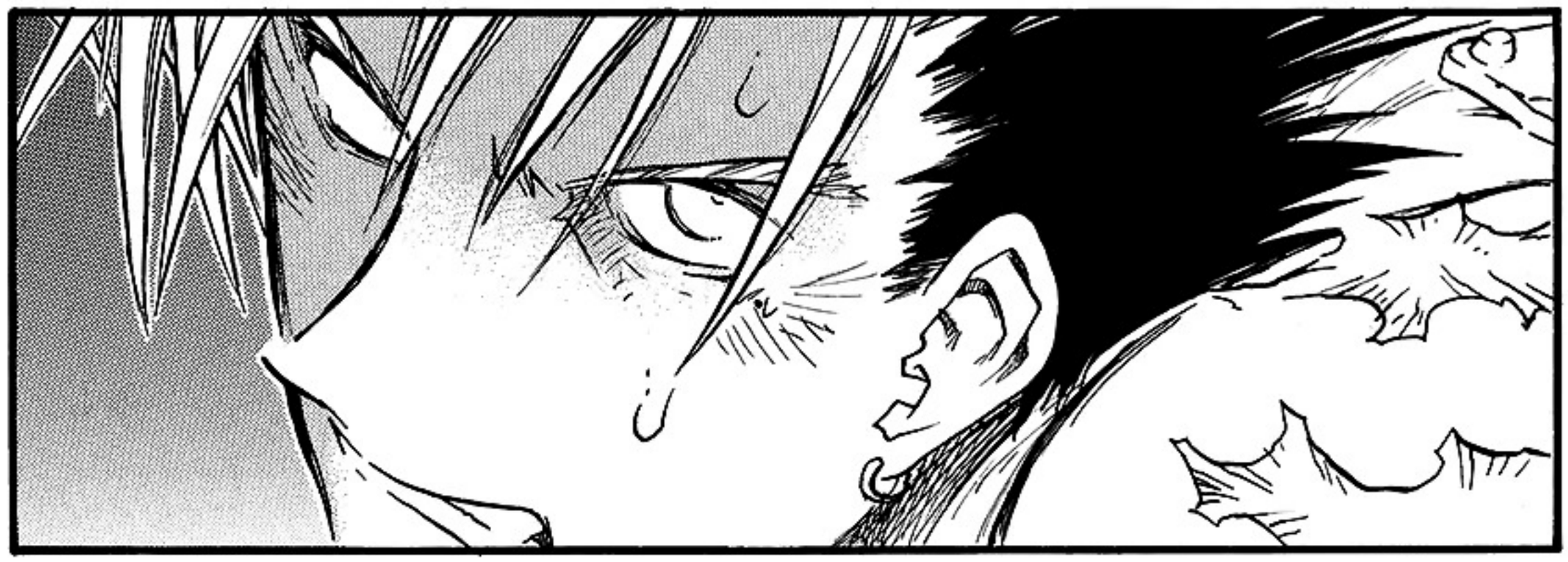

DO YOU REALLY BELIEVE...
...THAT PEOPLE *CANNOT* CHANGE?

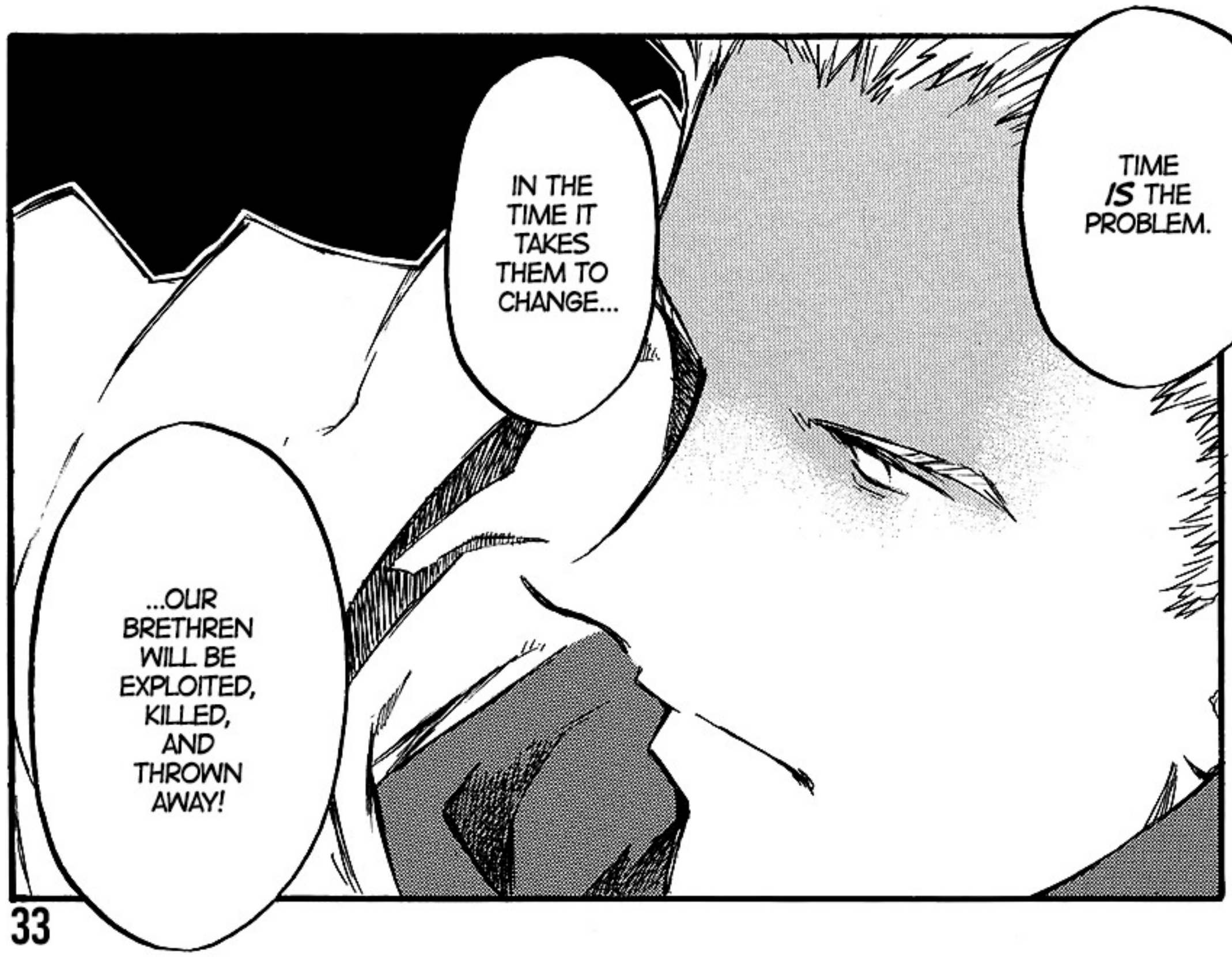




...BUT HUMANS DO MAKE PROGRESS.
IT MAY TAKE A LONG TIME, AND SOMETIMES IT MIGHT NOT SEEM LIKE IT...
YOU HAVE TO REMEMBER THE WAY REM WAS!



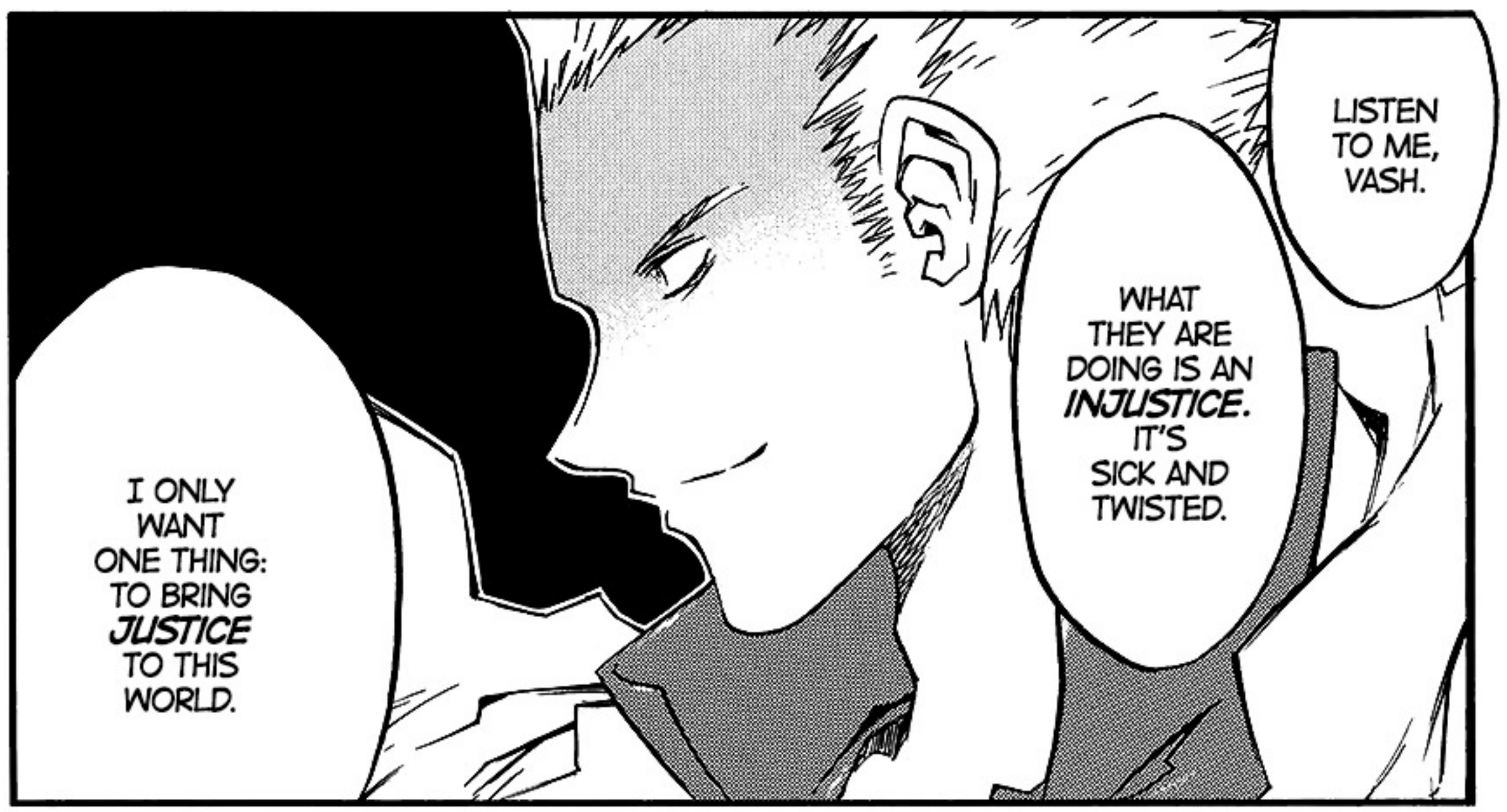


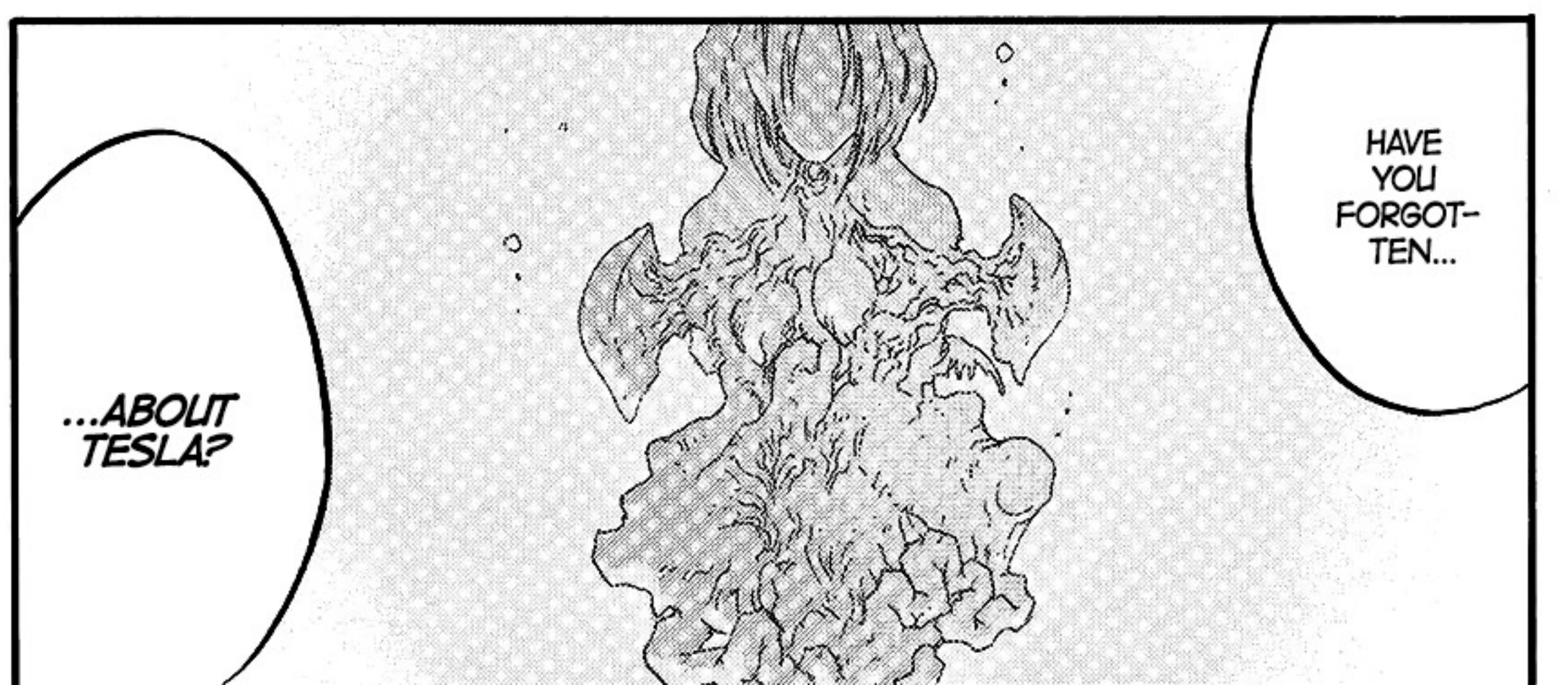

IN THE TIME IT TAKES THEM TO CHANGE...
TIME *IS* THE PROBLEM.
...OUR BRETHREN WILL BE EXPLOITED, KILLED, AND THROWN AWAY!

THEY TAKE, ALL THEY EVER DO IS TAKE... AND THEY WILL CONTINUE TO TAKE EVERYTHING UNTIL IT HAS ALL RUN DRY.
IT'S WHAT THEIR HISTORY HAS TAUGHT US, THAT IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN THIS WAY.

WHO SAYS THIS IS THE WAY IT HAS TO BE?
THEY'RE NOTHING BUT DOMES-TICATED ANIMALS, VASH.

THAT'S THE WAY IT IS! THINGS TAKE TIME!
WHY CAN'T YOU ACCEPT THAT?!


LISTEN TO ME, VASH.
WHAT THEY ARE DOING IS AN INJUSTICE. IT'S SICK AND TWISTED.
I ONLY WANT ONE THING: TO BRING JUSTICE TO THIS WORLD.


HAVE YOU FORGOT-TEN...
...ABOUT TESLA?

I WILL NEVER FORGET!

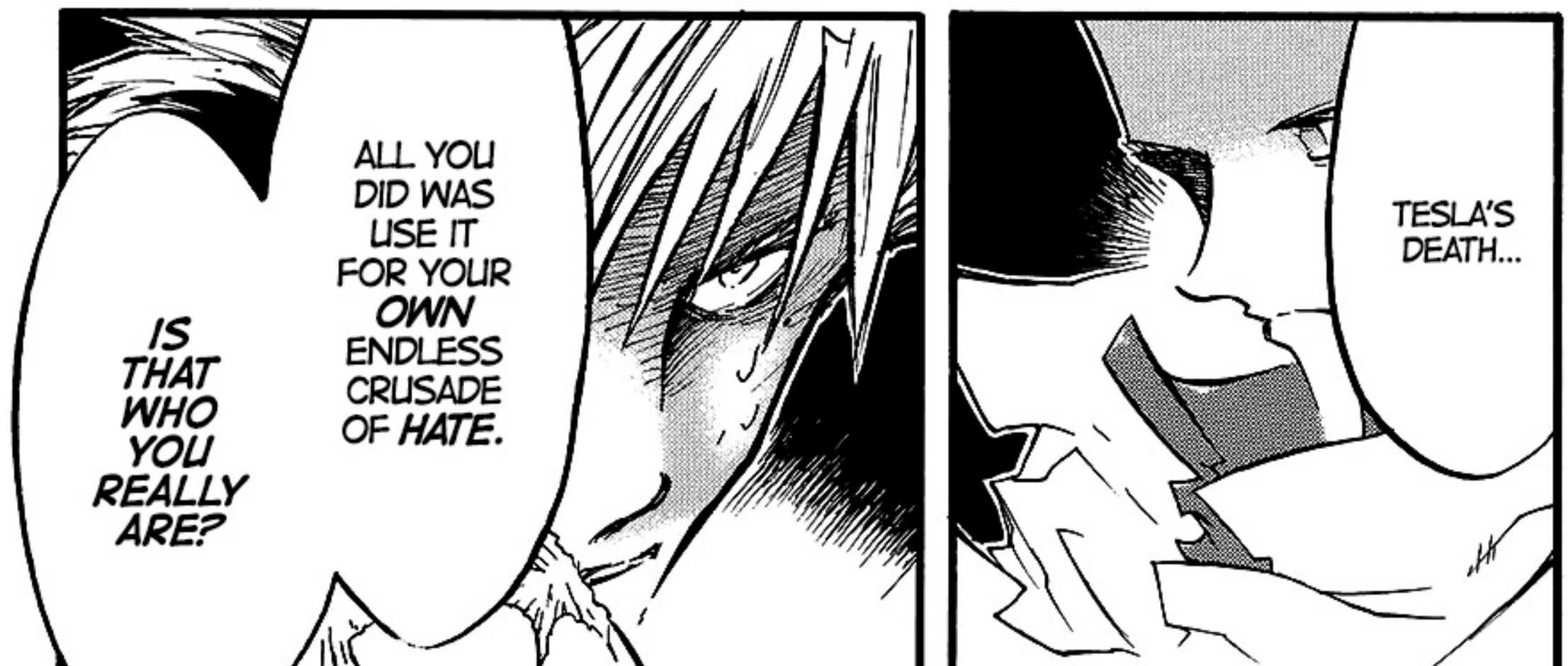
NOT FOR ONE SECOND!

IT'S WHY WE'RE THE ONES...

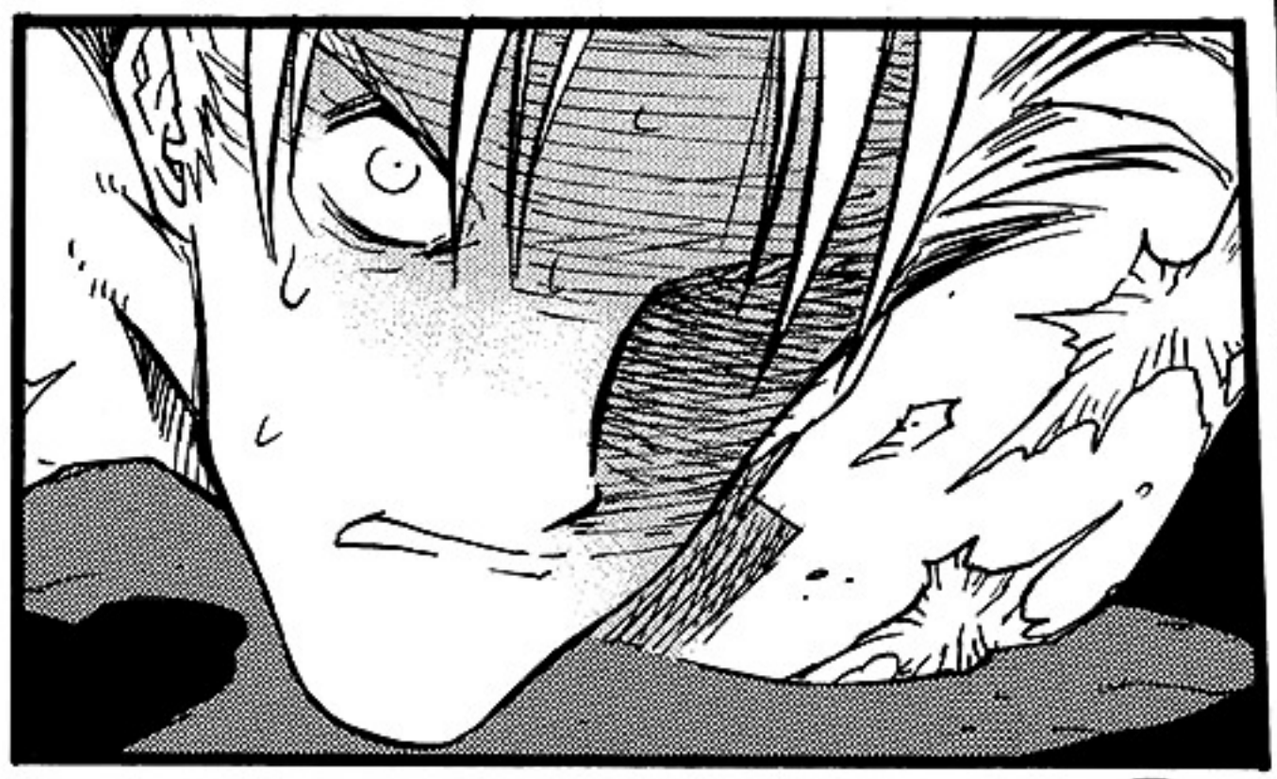
BUT THAT'S THE REASON FOR ALL OF THIS, KNIVES...

...WHO CAN SPEAK THE WORDS OF TRUTH THAT WILL STOP THE FIGHTING. ONLY THE VICTIMS OF VIOLENCE CAN TRULY DESCRIBE ITS ESSENCE.

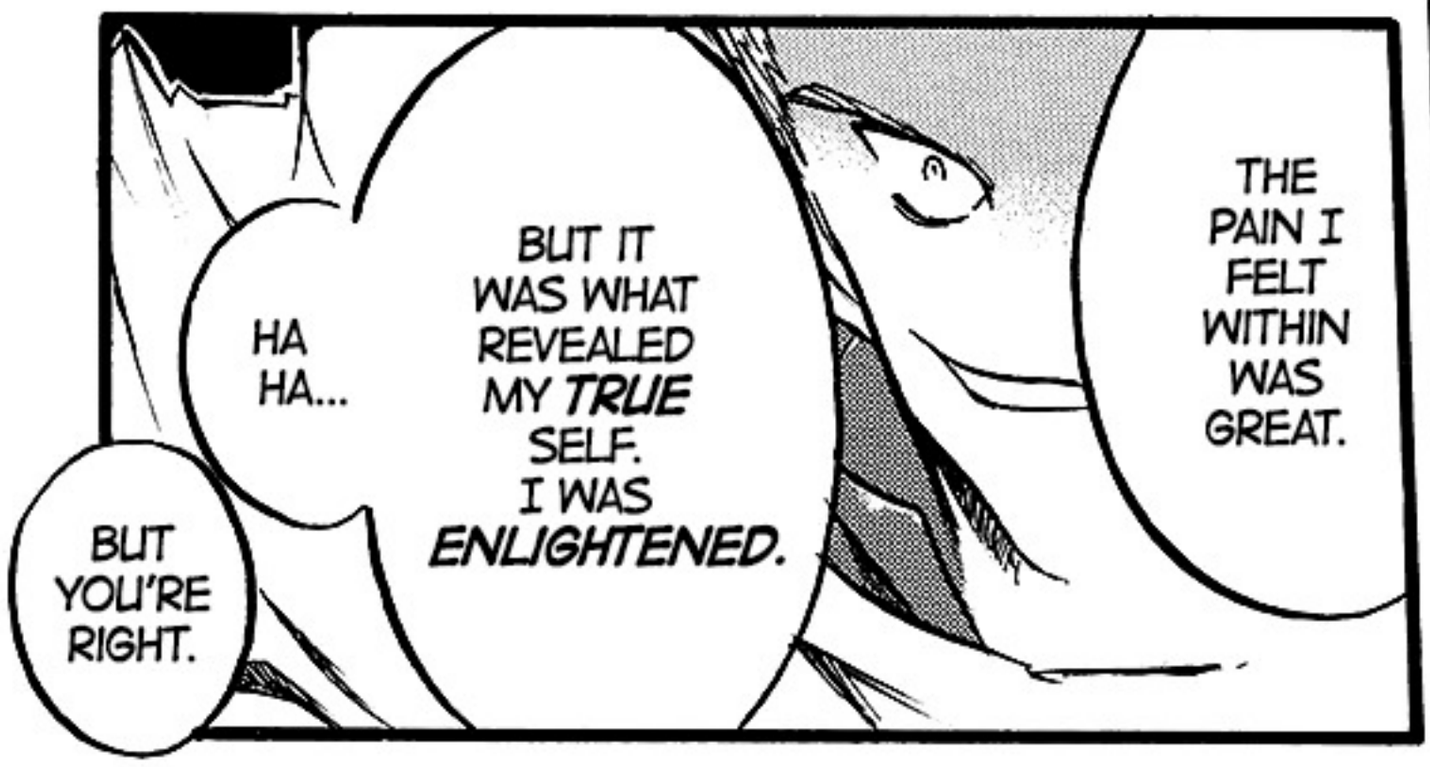
WE'VE SUFFERED, BUT YOU BOTTLED IT UP, KEEPING YOURSELF FROM FEELING THE PAIN AND NEVER FINDING THE TRUE SOURCE OF IT.



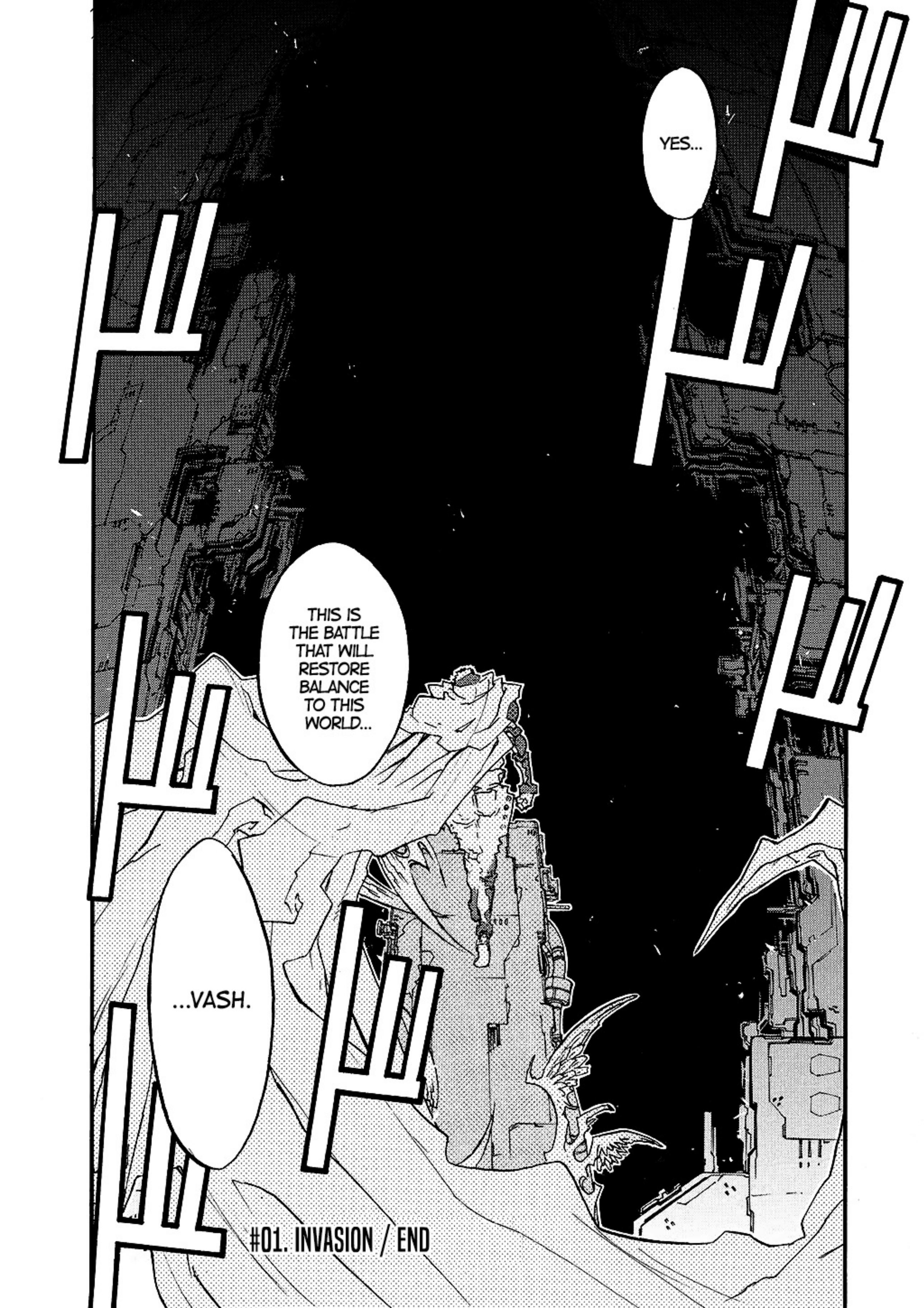
THE ONLY TRUE STRUGGLE IS THE ONE AGAINST YOURSELF!
DON'T YOU TURN AWAY FROM ME, KNIVES!



I SEE.
IT'S TRUE. IT'S JUST AS YOU SAY, VASH.


THE PAIN I FELT WITHIN WAS GREAT.
BUT IT WAS WHAT REVEALED MY *TRUE* SELF. I WAS *ENLIGHTENED.*
HA HA...
BUT YOU'RE RIGHT.

WE WILL TEACH THEM TO LOOK WITHIN THEMSELVES. WE WILL *MAKE* THEM LEARN.
THEN WE WILL BE EVEN.


YES...
THIS IS THE BATTLE THAT WILL RESTORE BALANCE TO THIS WORLD...
...VASH.
#01. INVASION / END

TRIGUN ULTIMATE

A COMPLETE FAN OVERHAUL OF: TRIGUN & TRIGUN MAXIMUM

CLEANER, EDITOR:
D / DOMFOCK

WRITERS:
D & VULPANA

SPECIAL THANKS:
- TO THE AMAZING COMMUNITY OF TRICORD FOR THEIR SUPPORT AND FEEDBACK!
- TO FRIENDS FOR DEALING WITH THE WORKAHOLIC INSANITY.

CREDITS:
TRIGUN BELONGS TO YASUHIRO NIGHTOW.

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DON'T DO THIS!

DON'T MAKE THE SAME MISTAKE AGAIN!

KNIVES!

THERE WILL BE...

...NO COMING BACK FROM THIS!

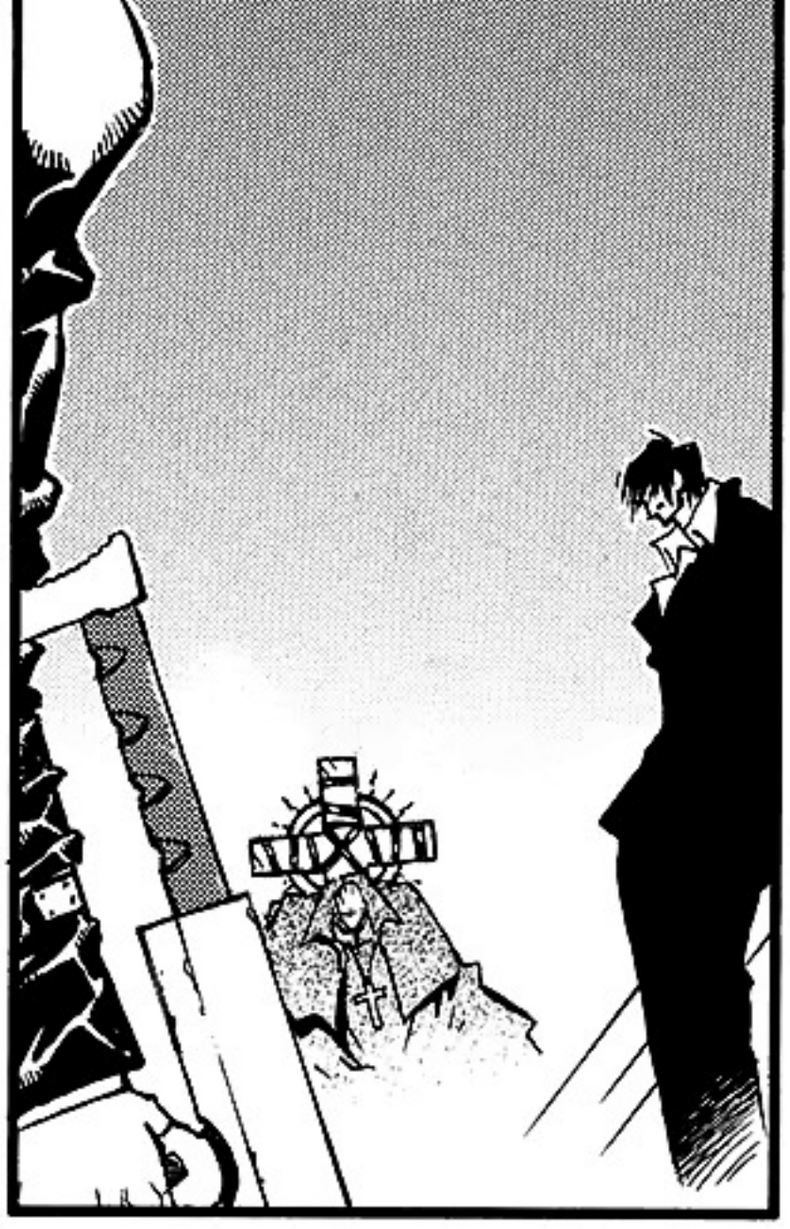
LOOK AROUND YOU, VASH. REALITY IS AS *TWISTED* AS IT CAN GET.

RIGHT NOW, MY *ONLY* PURPOSE IS TO SAVE OUR IMPRISONED SISTERS.

IF THAT SHOULD CAUSE THOSE IMPERFECT BEINGS TO KILL EACH OTHER...

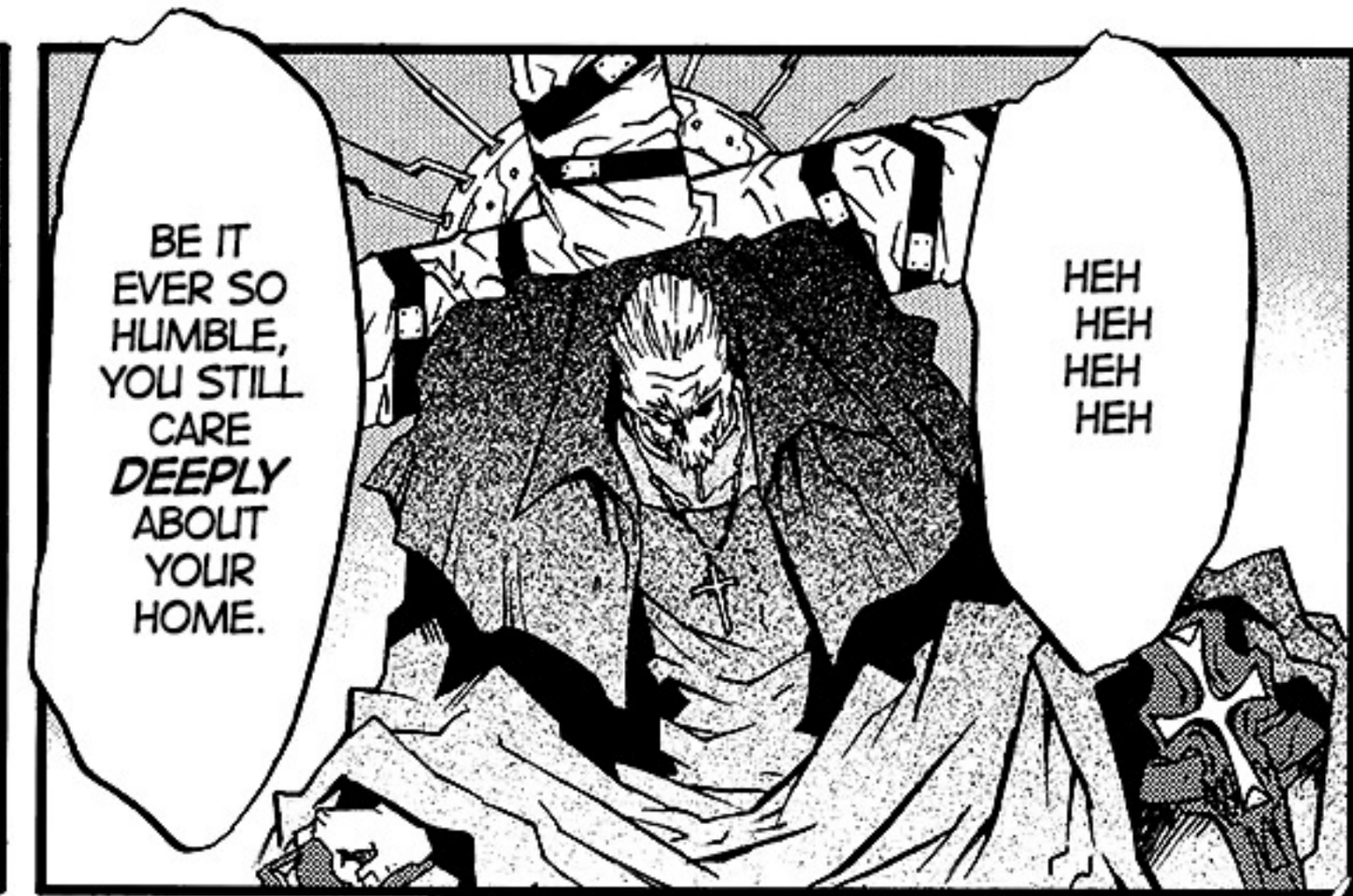
#02. SILENT RUIN

...IT WILL PROVE THAT WAS ALL THEY WERE GOOD FOR.



AND WHAT ABOUT *YOU*, NICHO-LAS?
IF ANYONE AT *YOUR BELOVED* ORPHANAGE SAW YOU NOW, THEY WOULDN'T BELIEVE THEIR EYES.
...
...

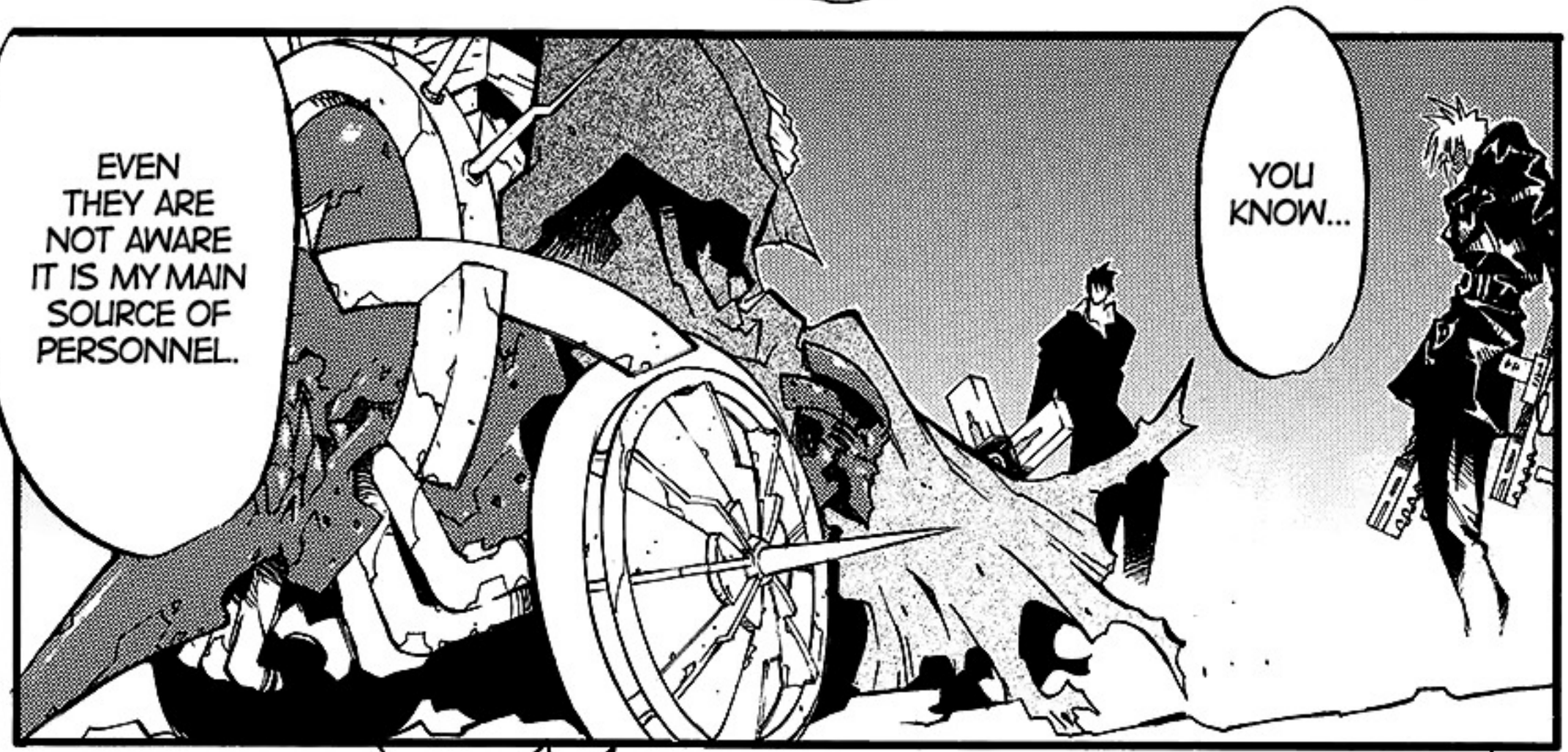
YOU SHOULD THANK ME THEN.


BE IT EVER SO HUMBLE, YOU STILL CARE *DEEPLY* ABOUT YOUR HOME.
HEH HEH HEH HEH

...
...
JUST AS I THOUGHT.

SHUT UP!

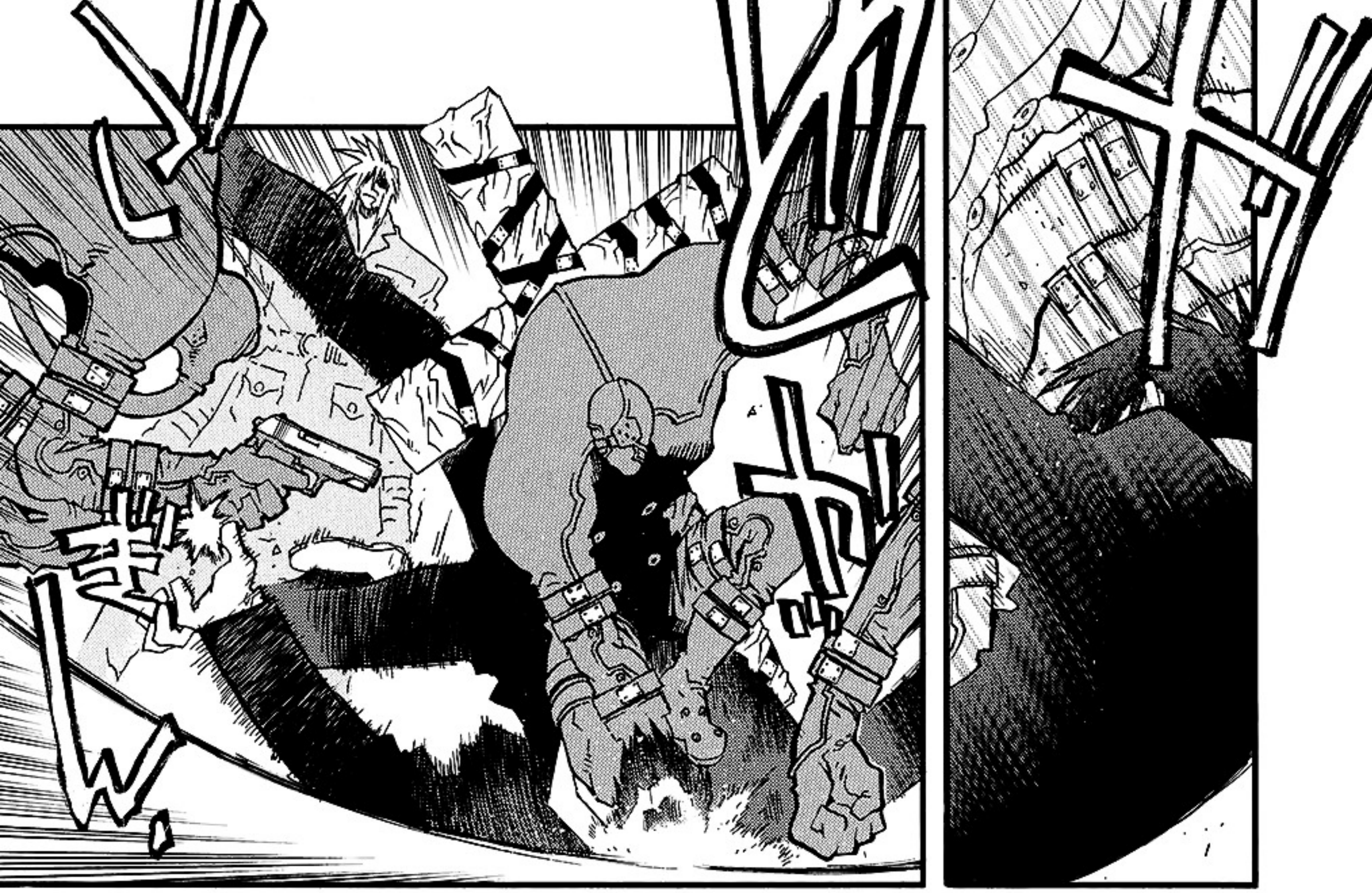
THE REASON FOR YOUR DEFIANCE.
YOU JUST CAN'T *STAND* THE FACT THAT YOUR HOME IS UNDER *MY* CONTROL.


EVEN THEY ARE NOT AWARE IT IS MY MAIN SOURCE OF PERSONNEL.
YOU KNOW...

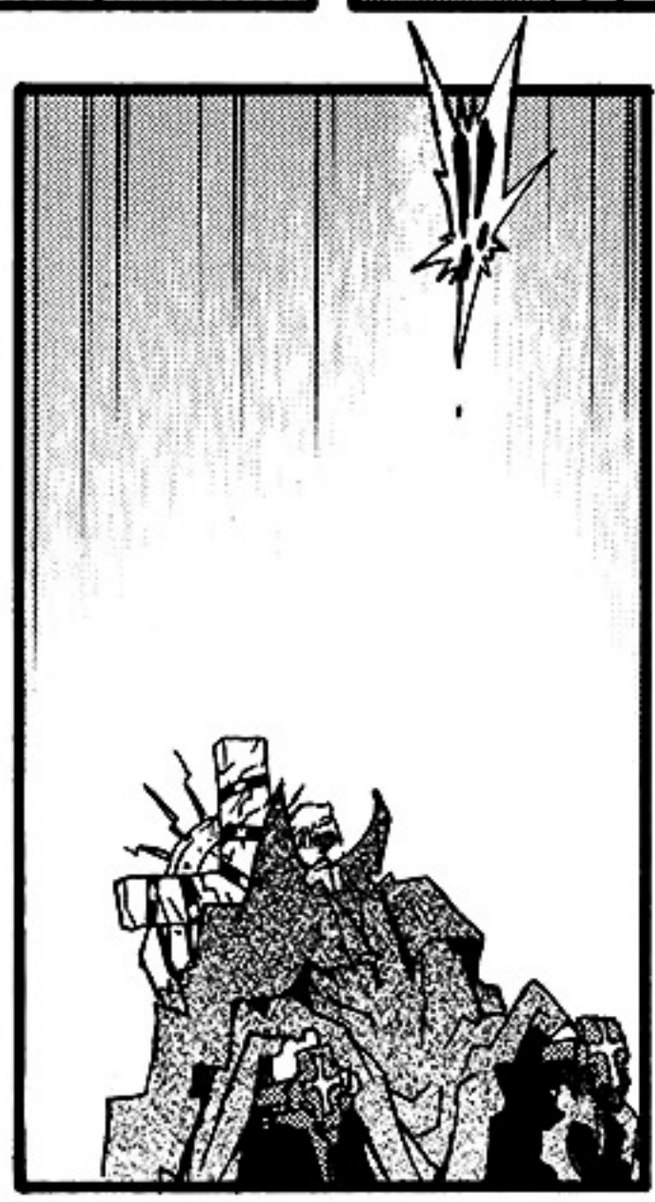
YA PRICK!
FUCK YOU!

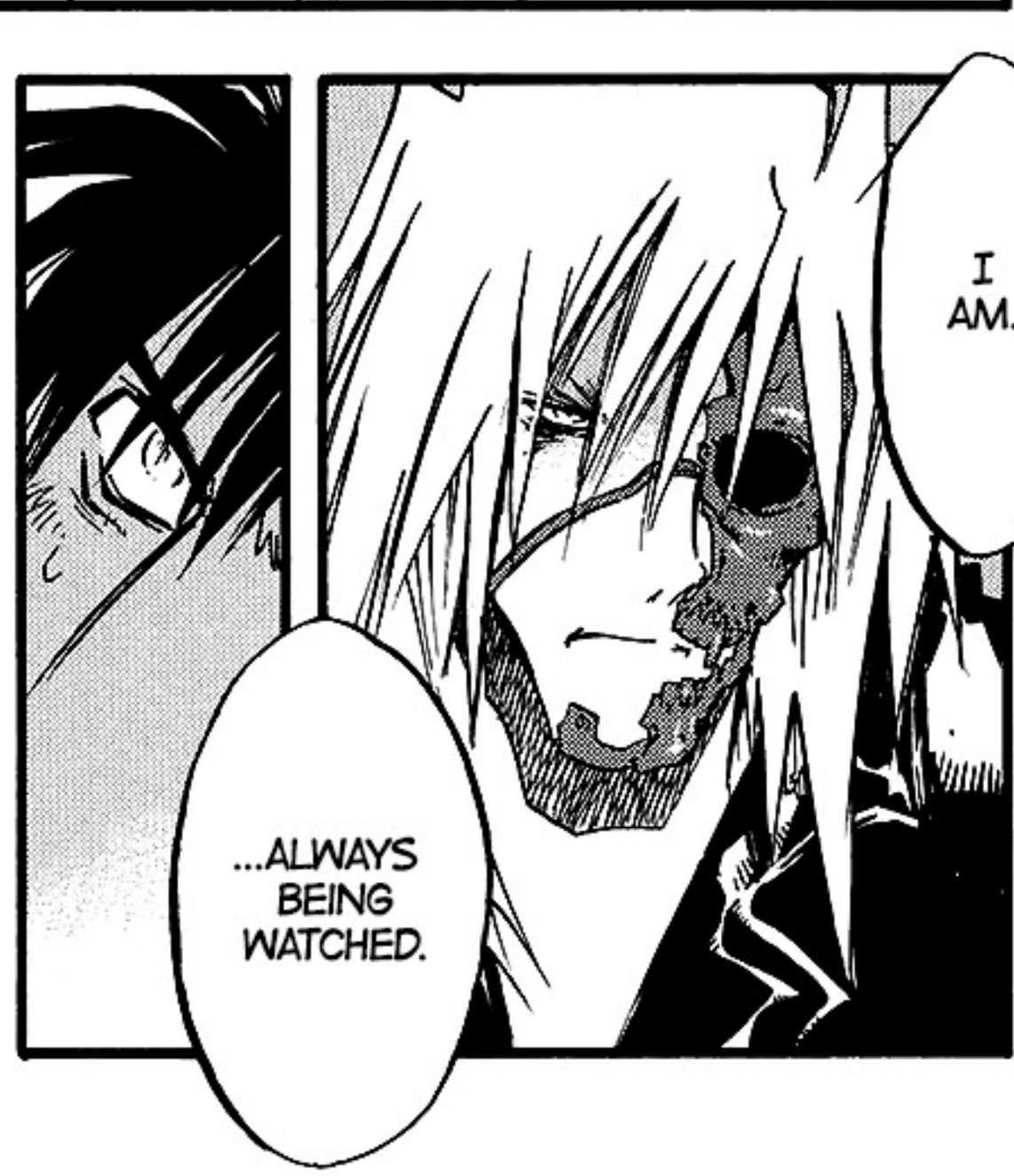
THERE ARE SO MANY USES FOR THE GOOD-NATURED...
IT IS SO VERY *EASY*.

IT'S USE-LESS.
LIVIO!
HE CANNOT...
...BETRAY ME.
GET OUTTA MY WAY!

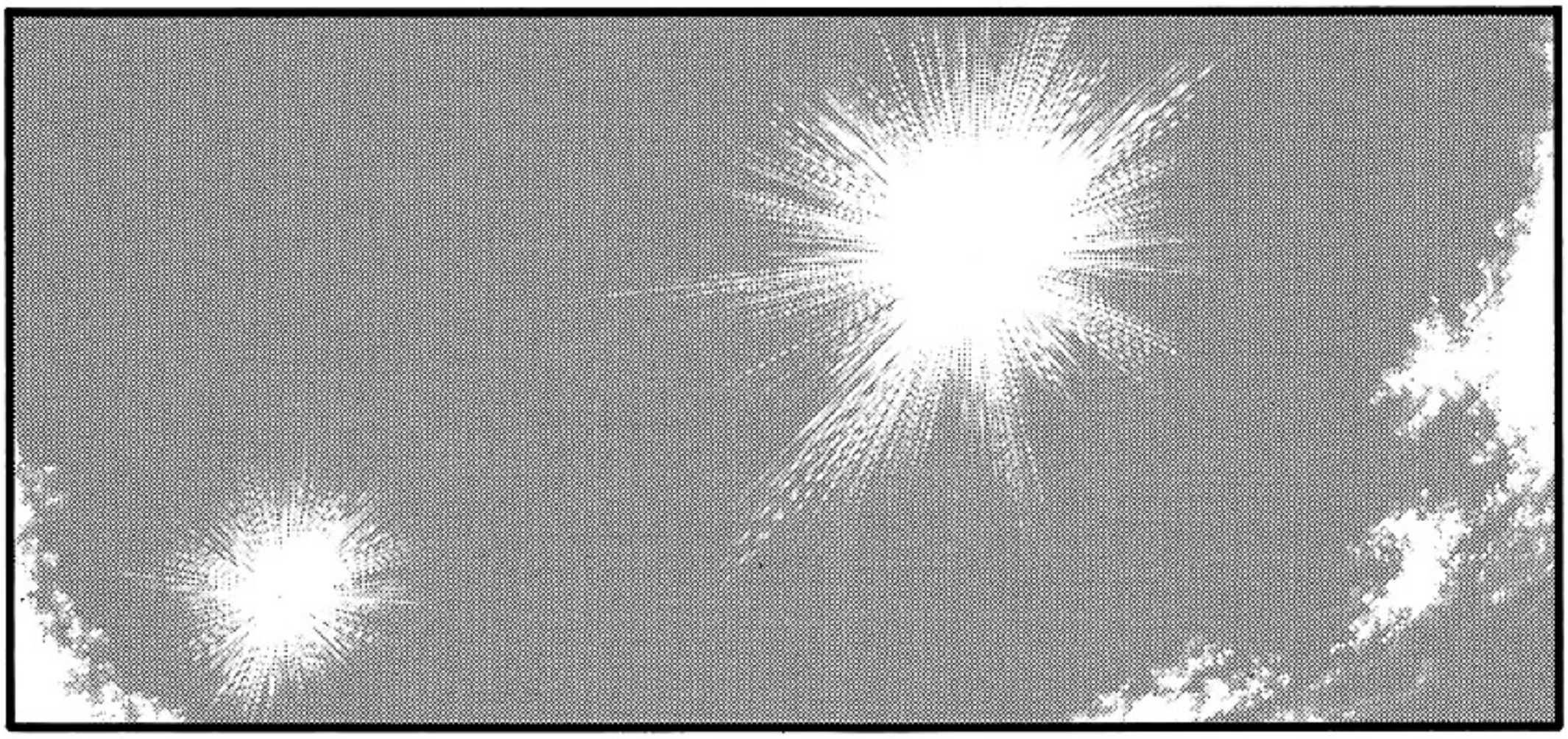


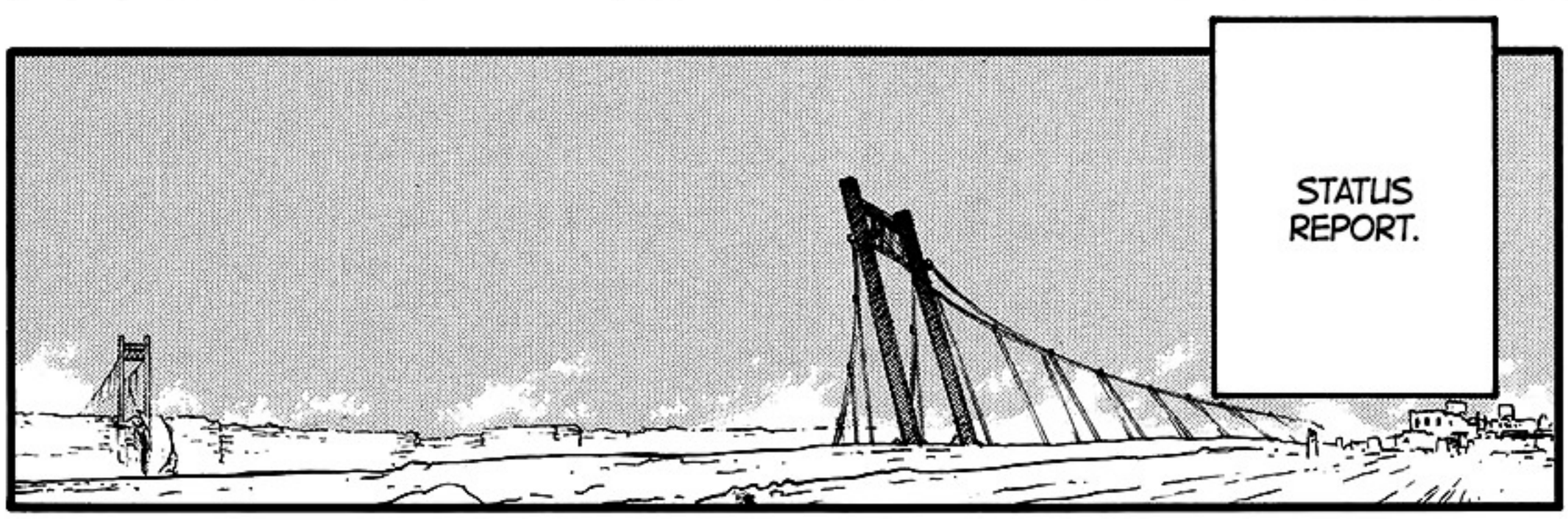
HERE IT COMES.

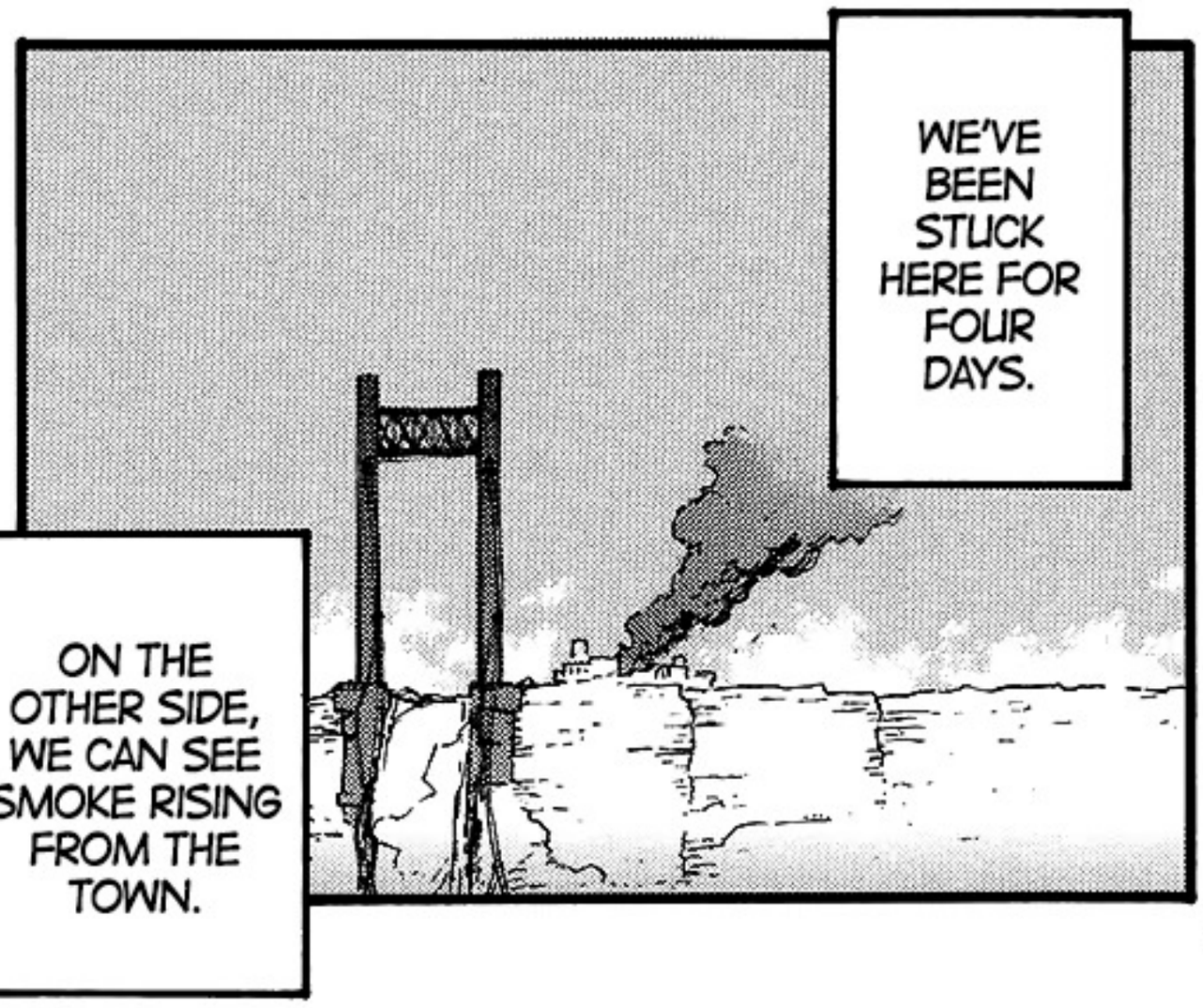



I AM...
...ALWAYS BEING WATCHED.

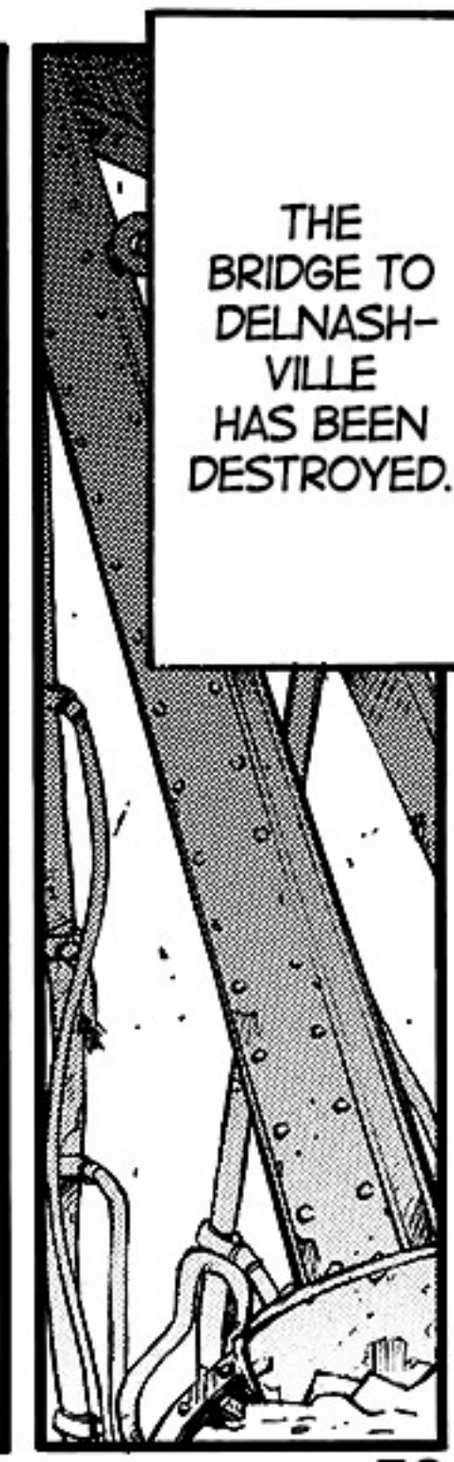
ドドド

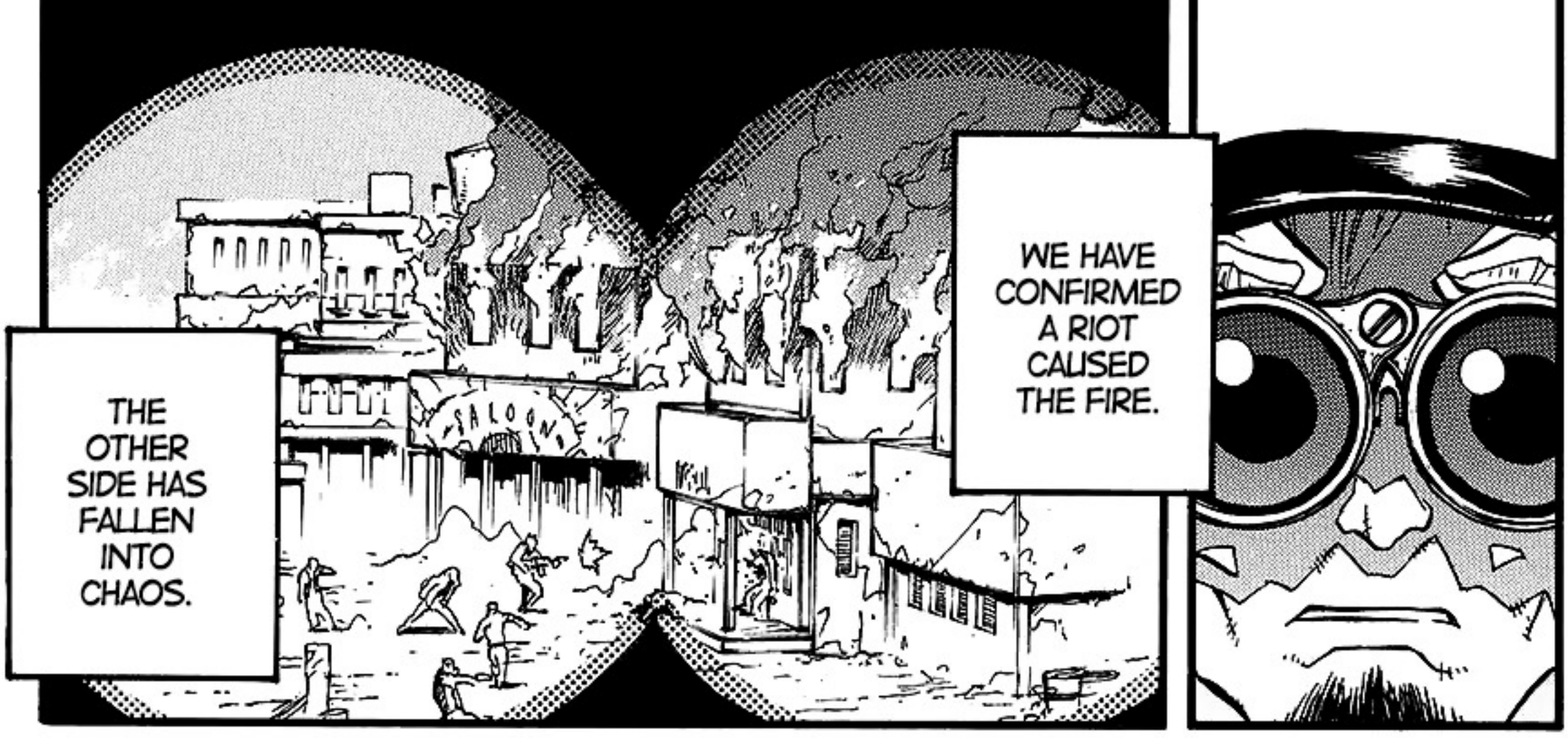


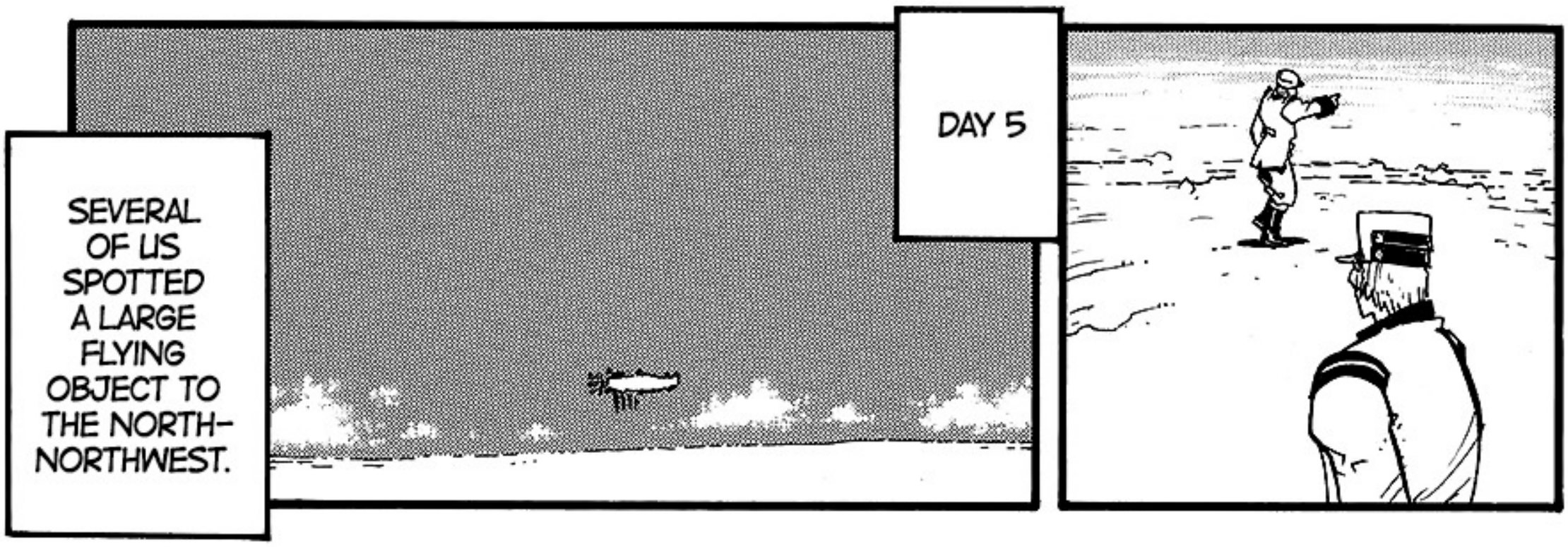

STATUS REPORT.

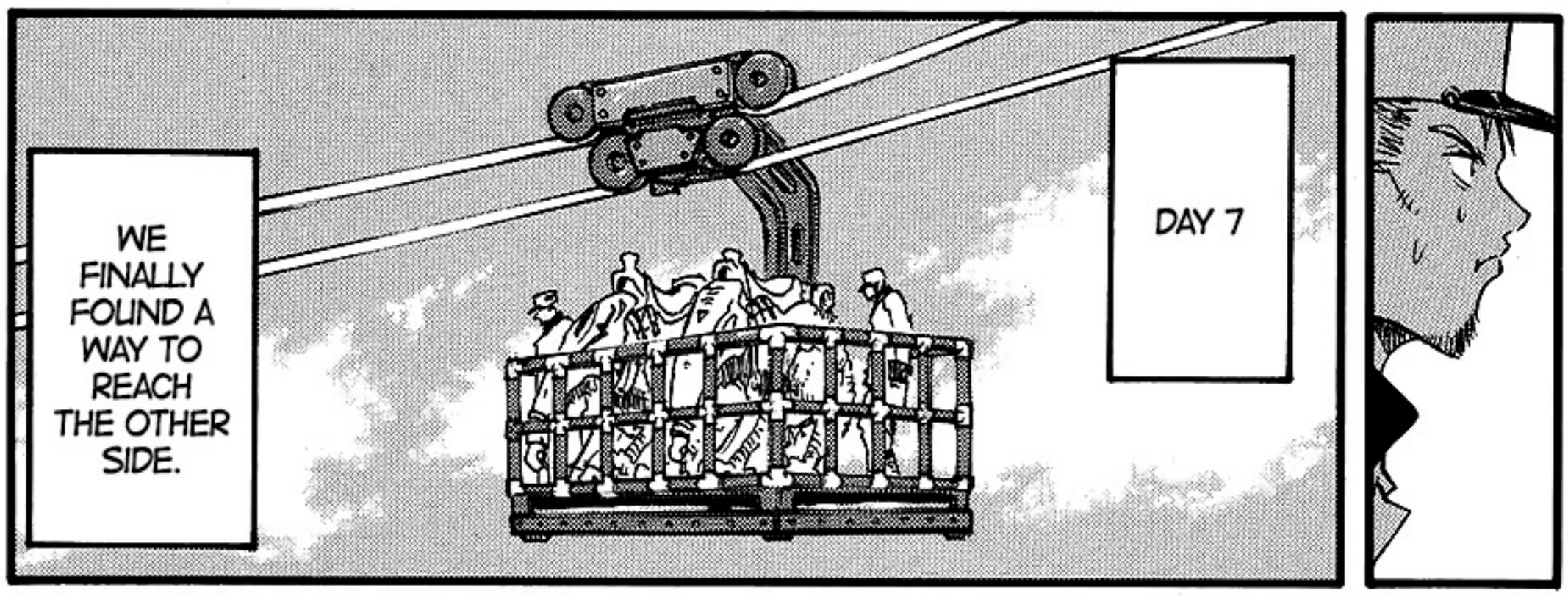

WE'VE BEEN STUCK HERE FOR FOUR DAYS.
ON THE OTHER SIDE, WE CAN SEE SMOKE RISING FROM THE TOWN.

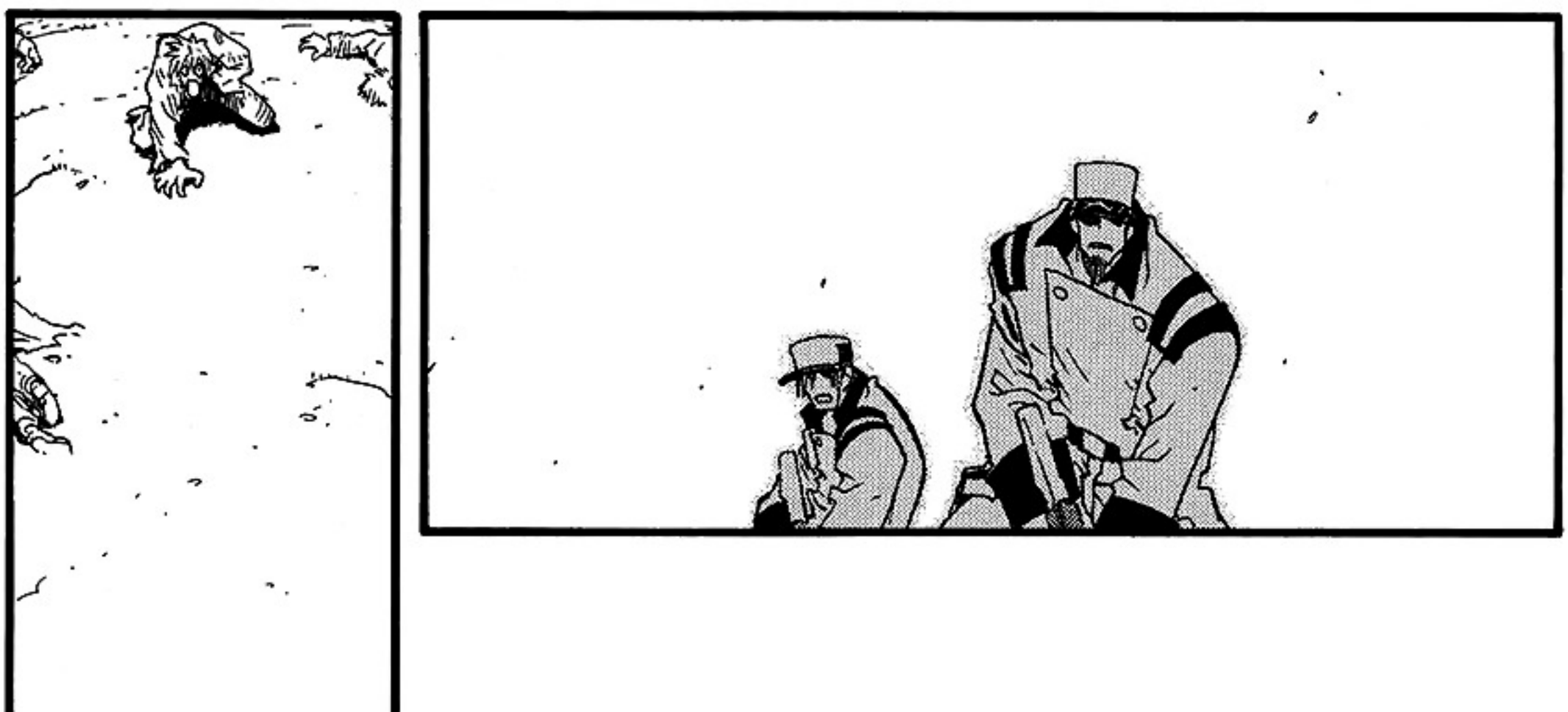
IT IS IMPOSSIBLE TO CROSS TO THE OTHER SIDE.


THE BRIDGE TO DELNASH-VILLE HAS BEEN DESTROYED.


THE OTHER SIDE HAS FALLEN INTO CHAOS.
SALOON
WE HAVE CONFIRMED A RIOT CAUSED THE FIRE.


SEVERAL OF US SPOTTED A LARGE FLYING OBJECT TO THE NORTH-NORTHWEST.
DAY 5

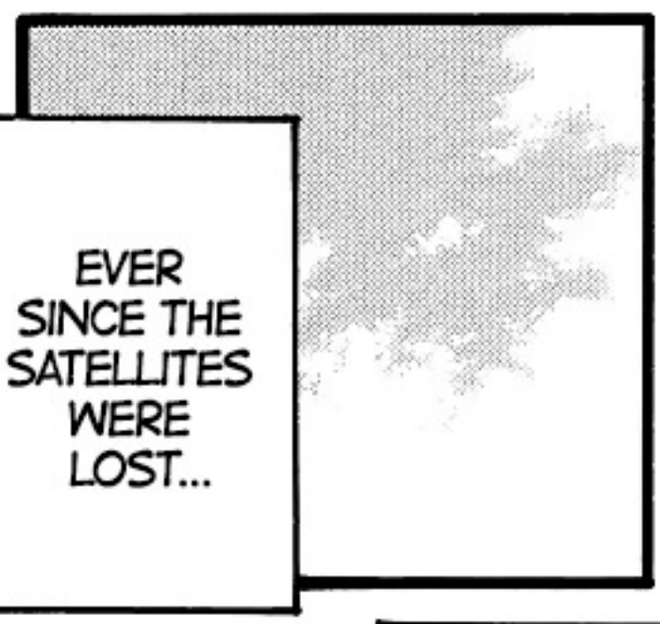

WE FINALLY FOUND A WAY TO REACH THE OTHER SIDE.
DAY 7



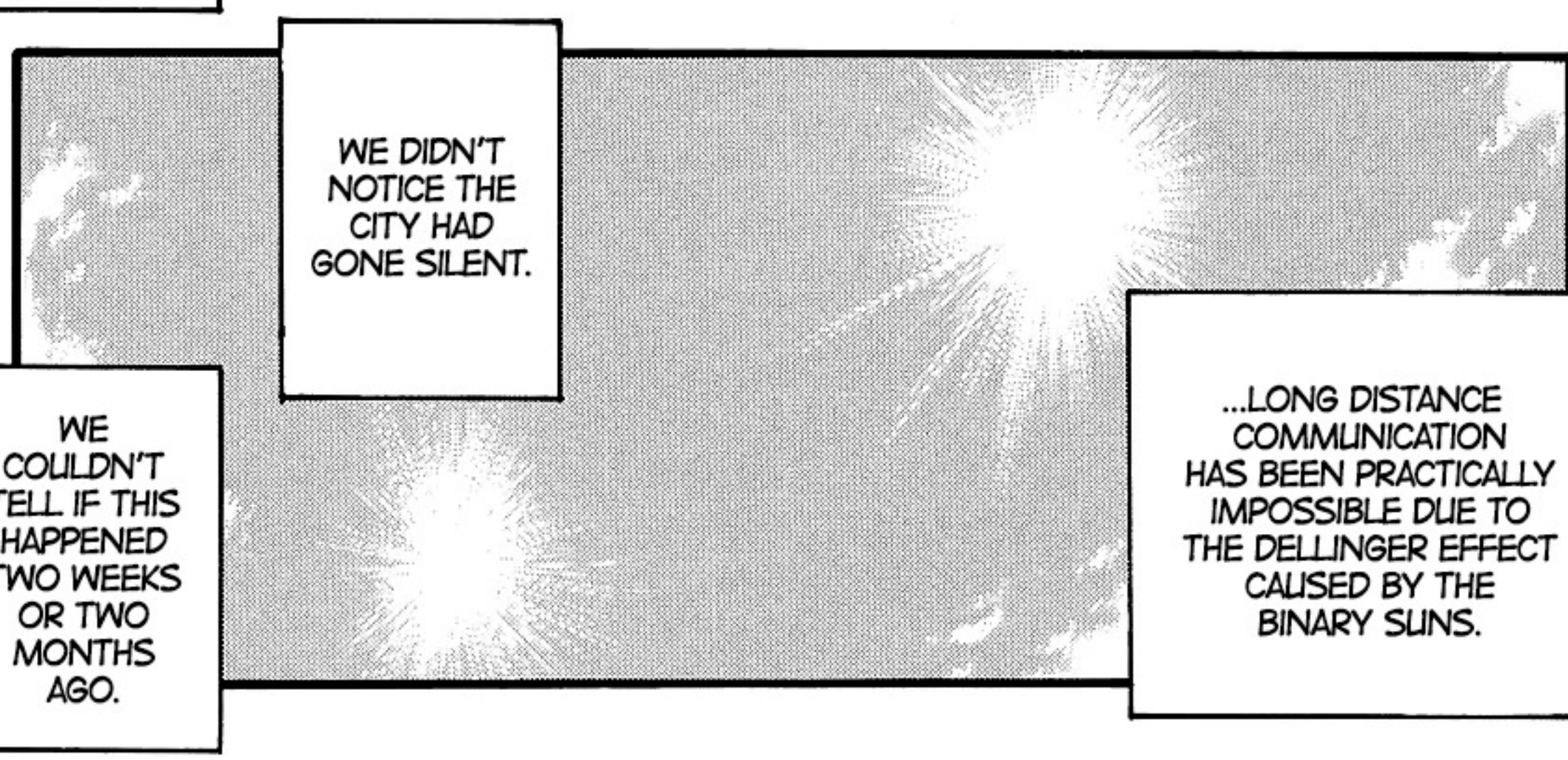
AAHHH
UURGH
DID YOU COME FROM THE CITY?
BUT IT'S SO FAR...
HE-
HELP M-ME...

A SHIP?!

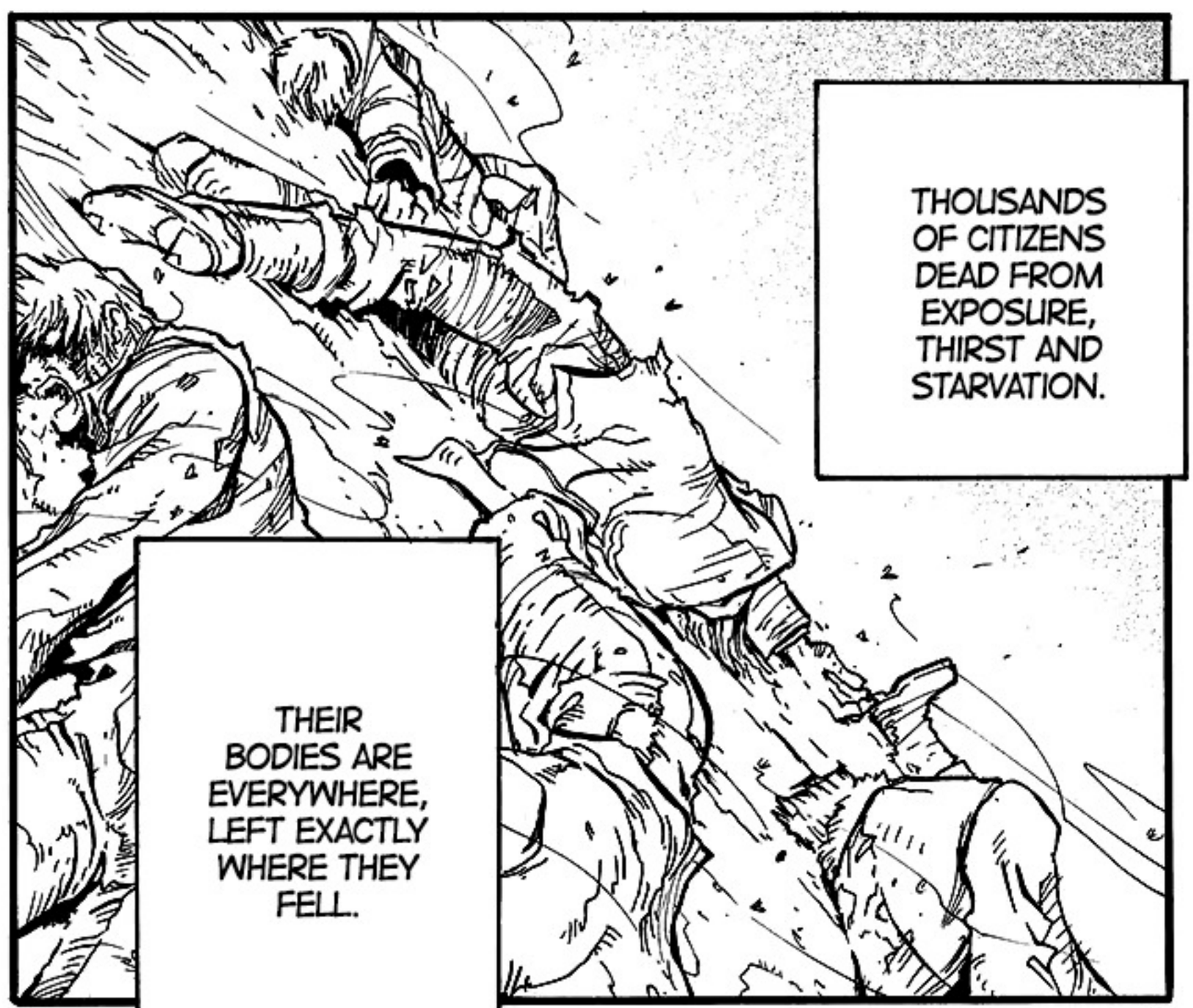
THE BIG...
SHIP TOOK ...!
THEY TOOK THEM...
THE PL-
PLANTS...


EVER SINCE THE SATELLITES WERE LOST...

WHAT IN THE WORLD IS GOING ON IN THE CITY?
HIS STORY FITS THE TRANSMISSION FRAGMENTS WE INTERCEPTED.


WE DIDN'T NOTICE THE CITY HAD GONE SILENT.
WE COULDN'T TELL IF THIS HAPPENED TWO WEEKS OR TWO MONTHS AGO.
...LONG DISTANCE COMMUNICATION HAS BEEN PRACTICALLY IMPOSSIBLE DUE TO THE DELLINGER EFFECT CAUSED BY THE BINARY SUNS.

THERE ARE EVEN SIGNS OF CANNI-BALISM.

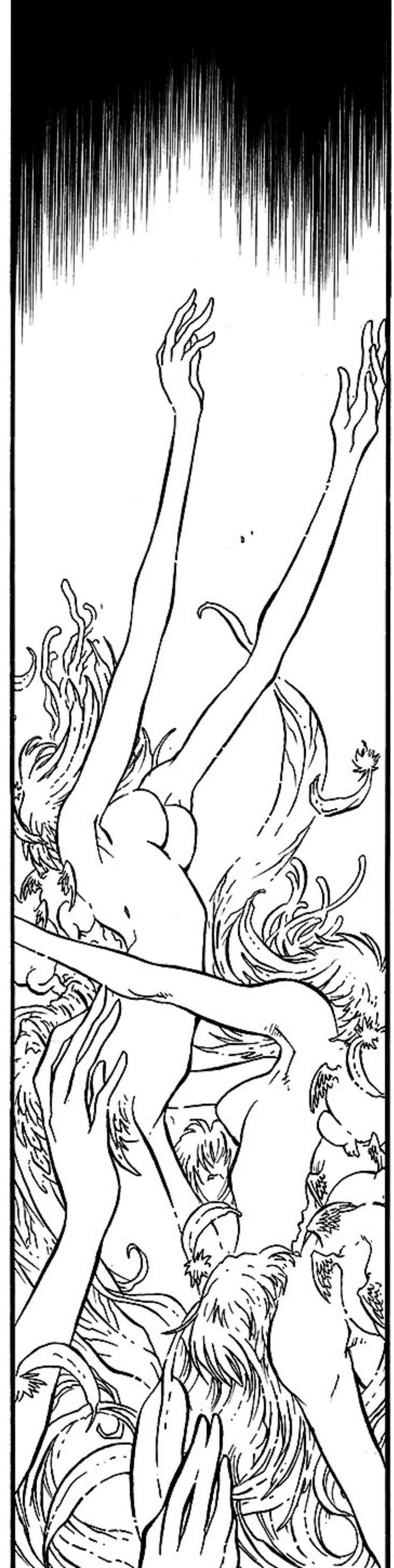


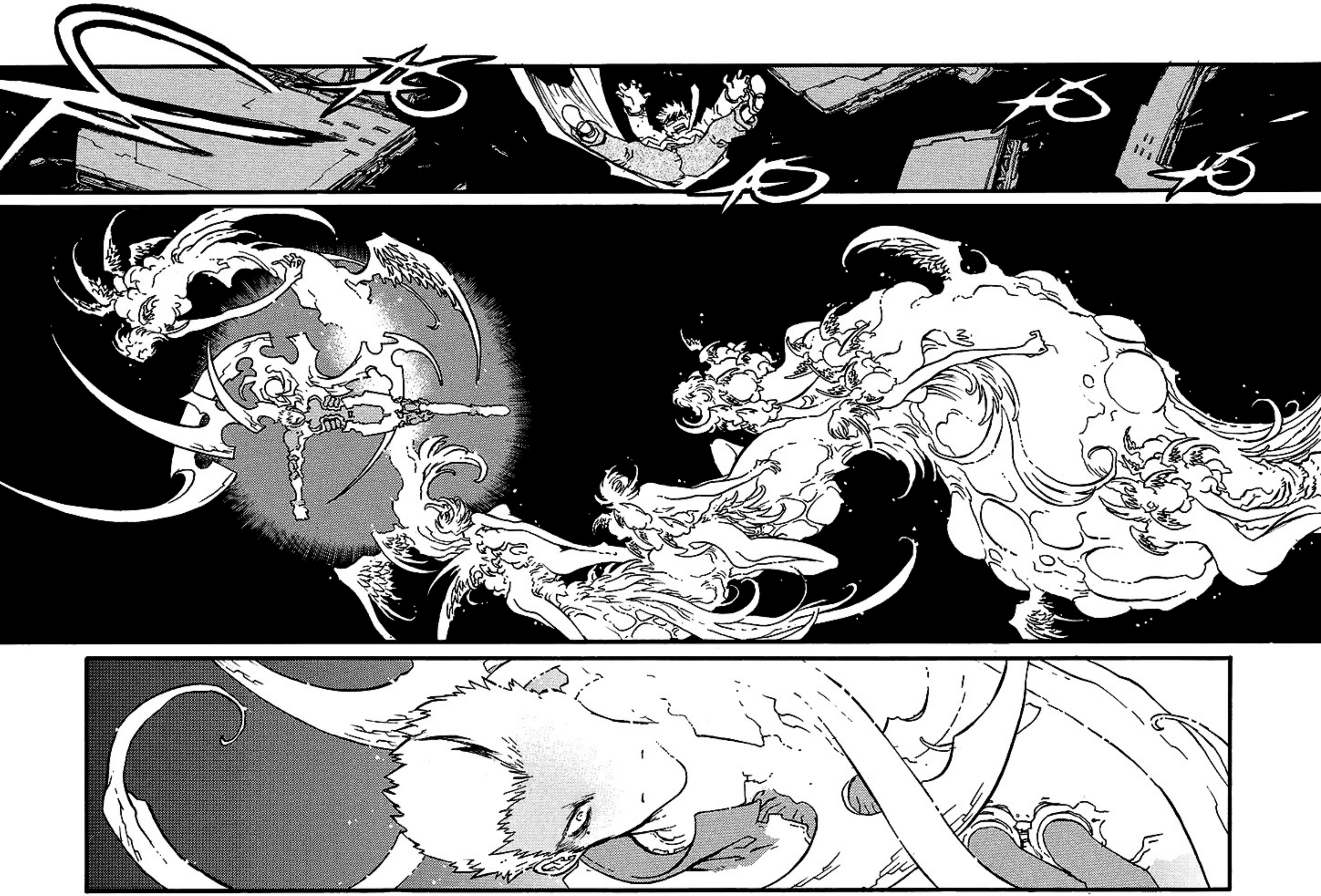
THOUSANDS OF CITIZENS DEAD FROM EXPOSURE, THIRST AND STARVATION.

THEIR BODIES ARE EVERYWHERE, LEFT EXACTLY WHERE THEY FELL.

WAIT!

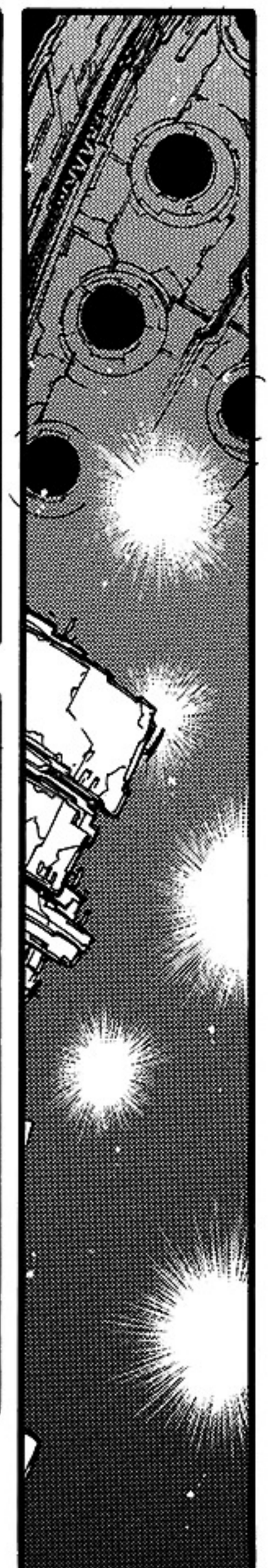
WHAT ARE YOU DOING TO THEM?!
DON'T LEAVE US HERE WITH-OUT THEM!

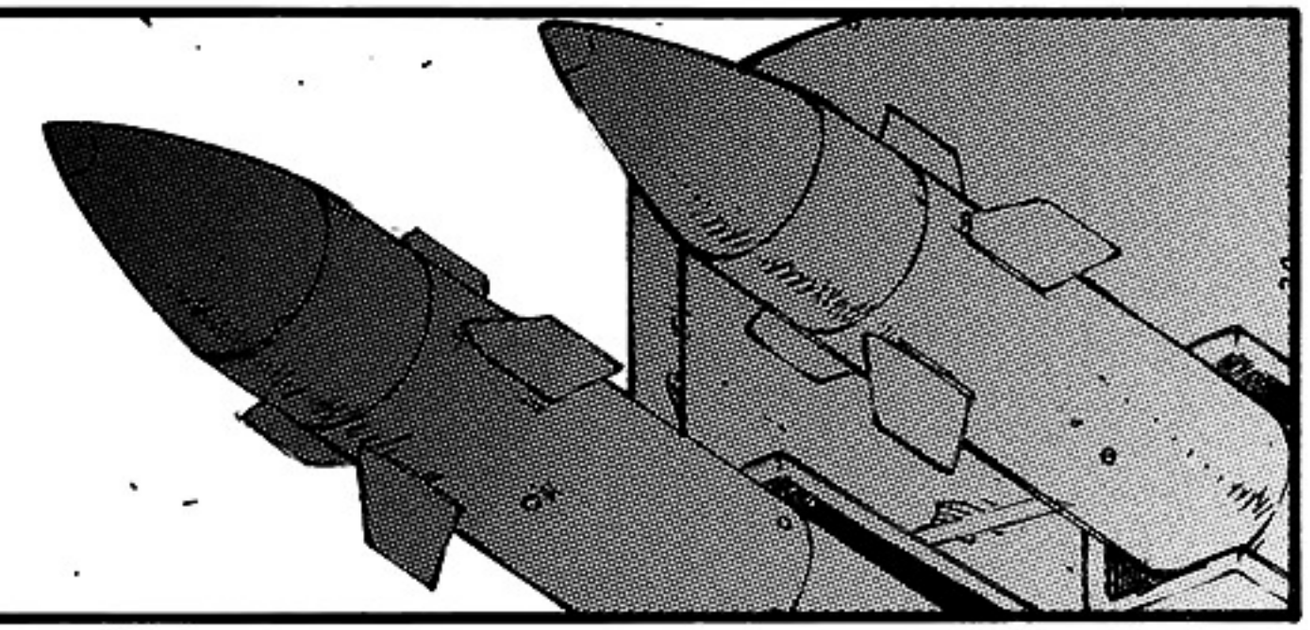


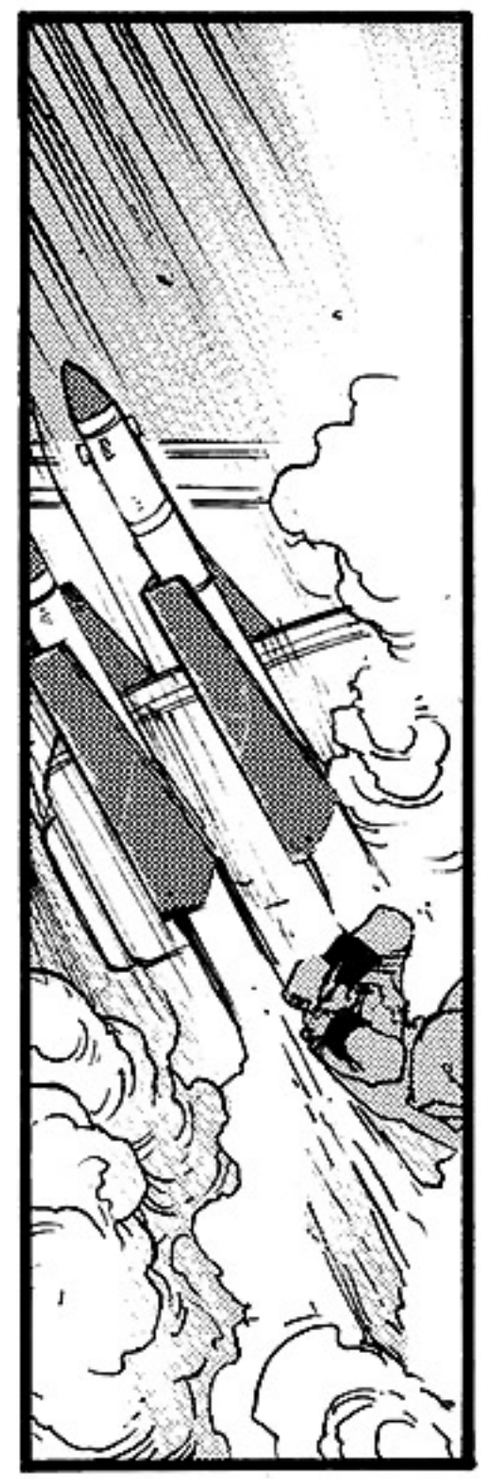


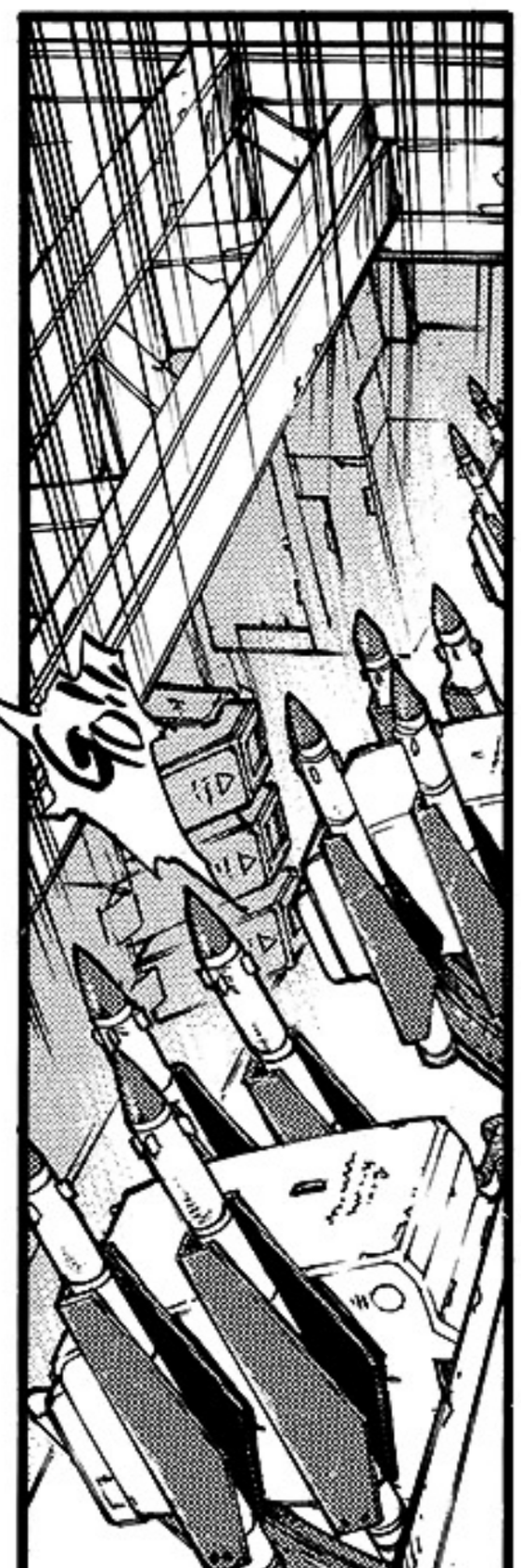
IT IS THE AGE OF CHAOS...

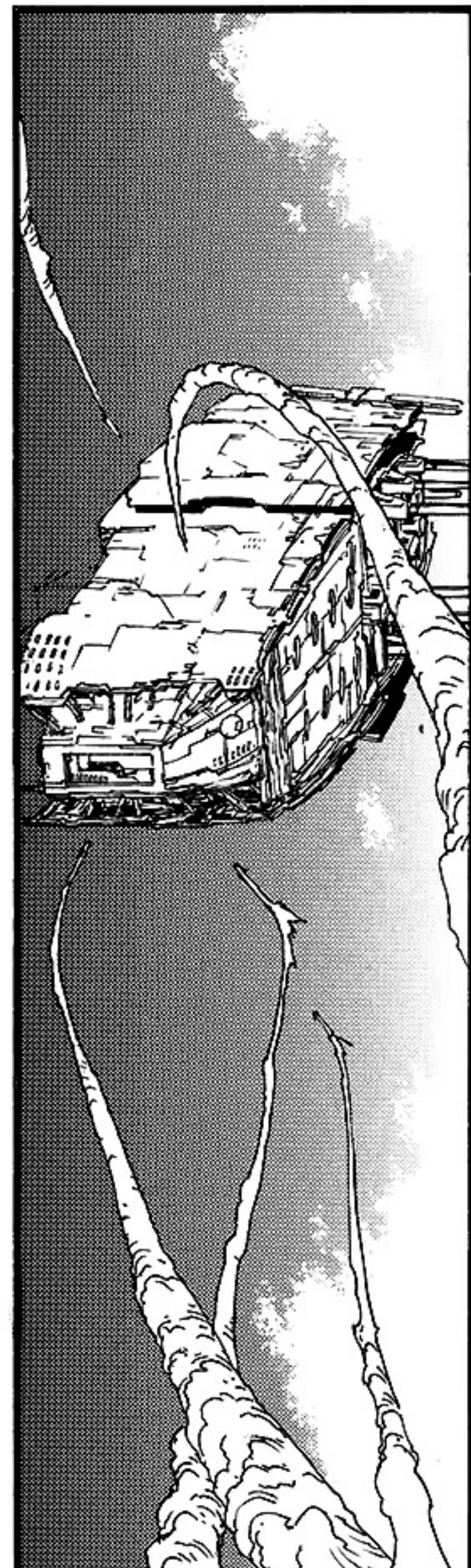
THE ARK MADE ITS WAY AROUND THE WORLD, PICKING UP PLANTS AS IT WENT.

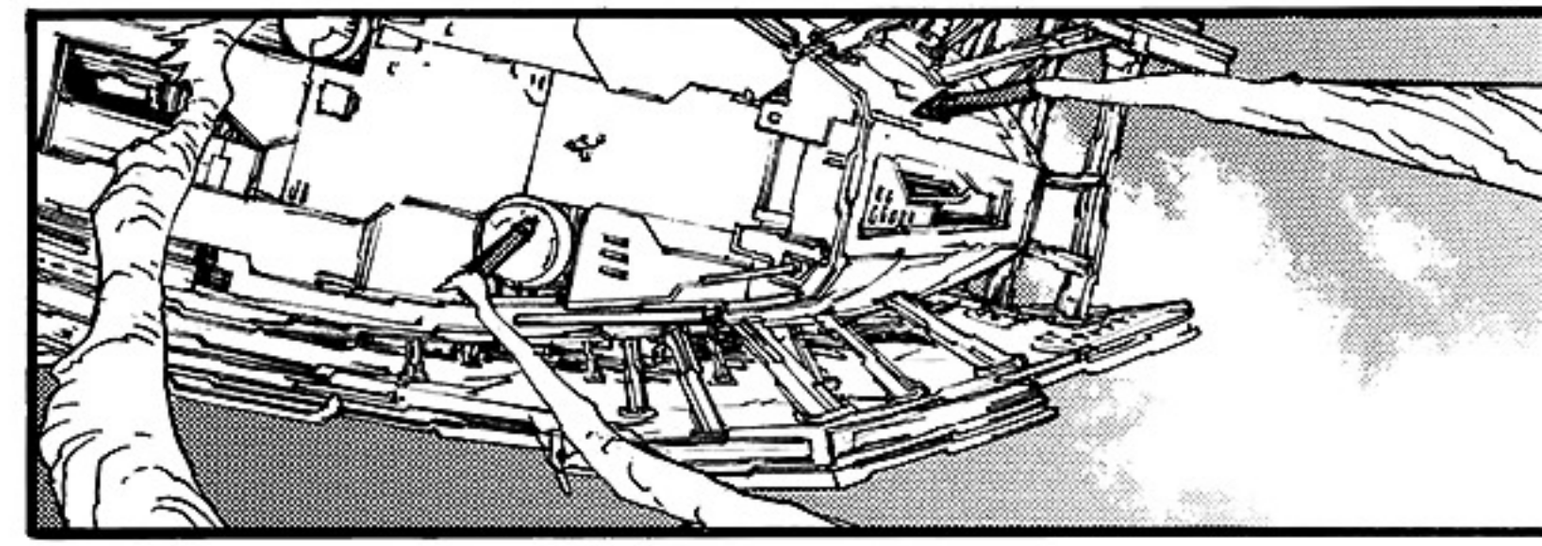


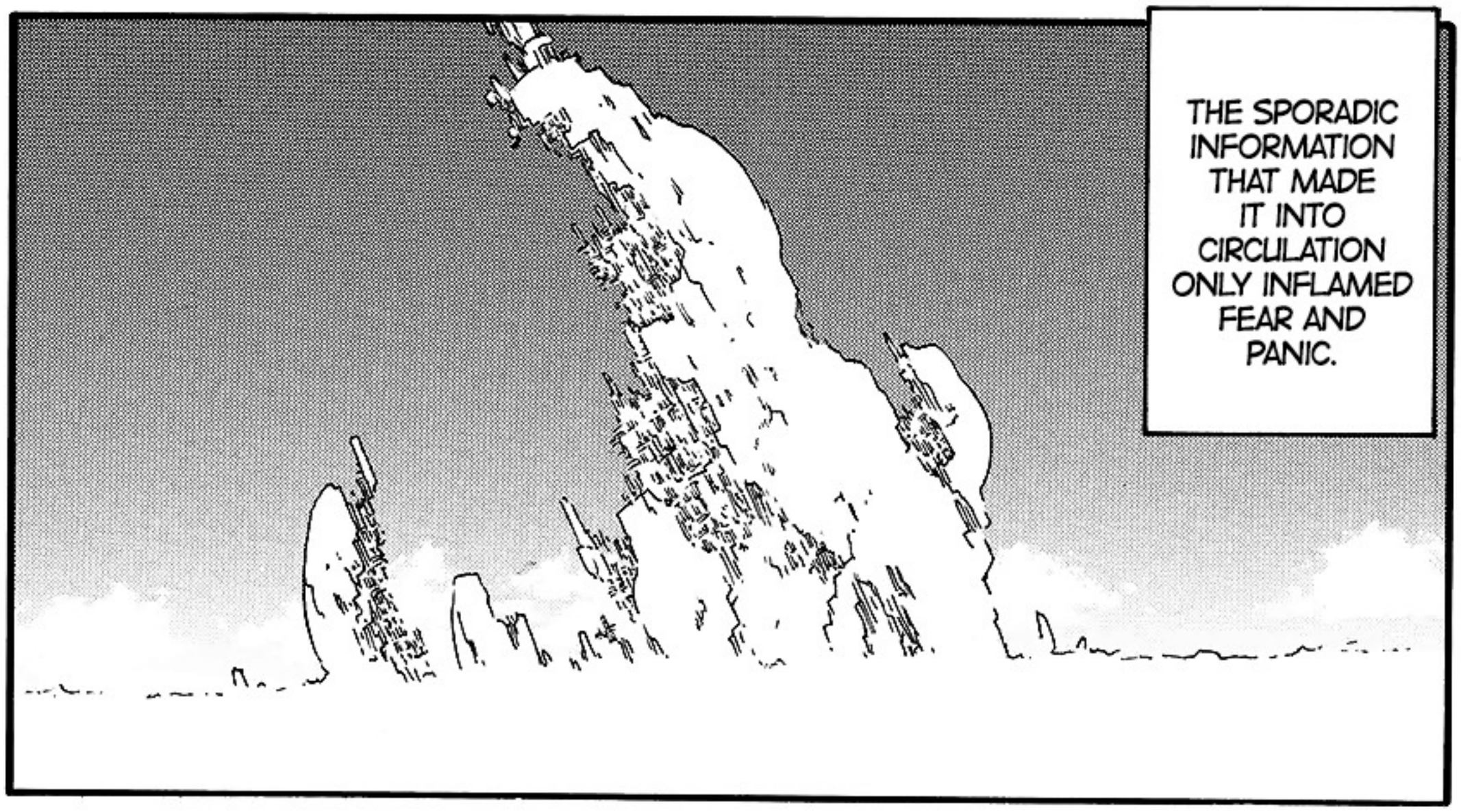


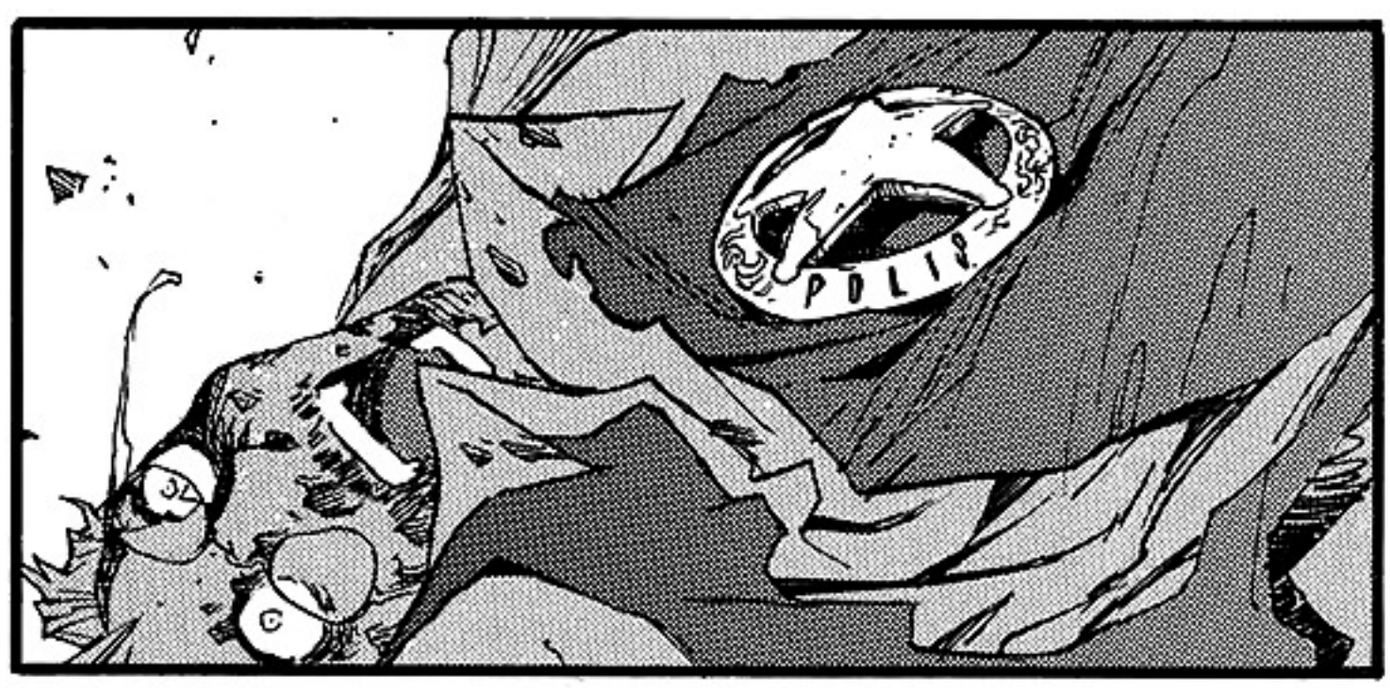


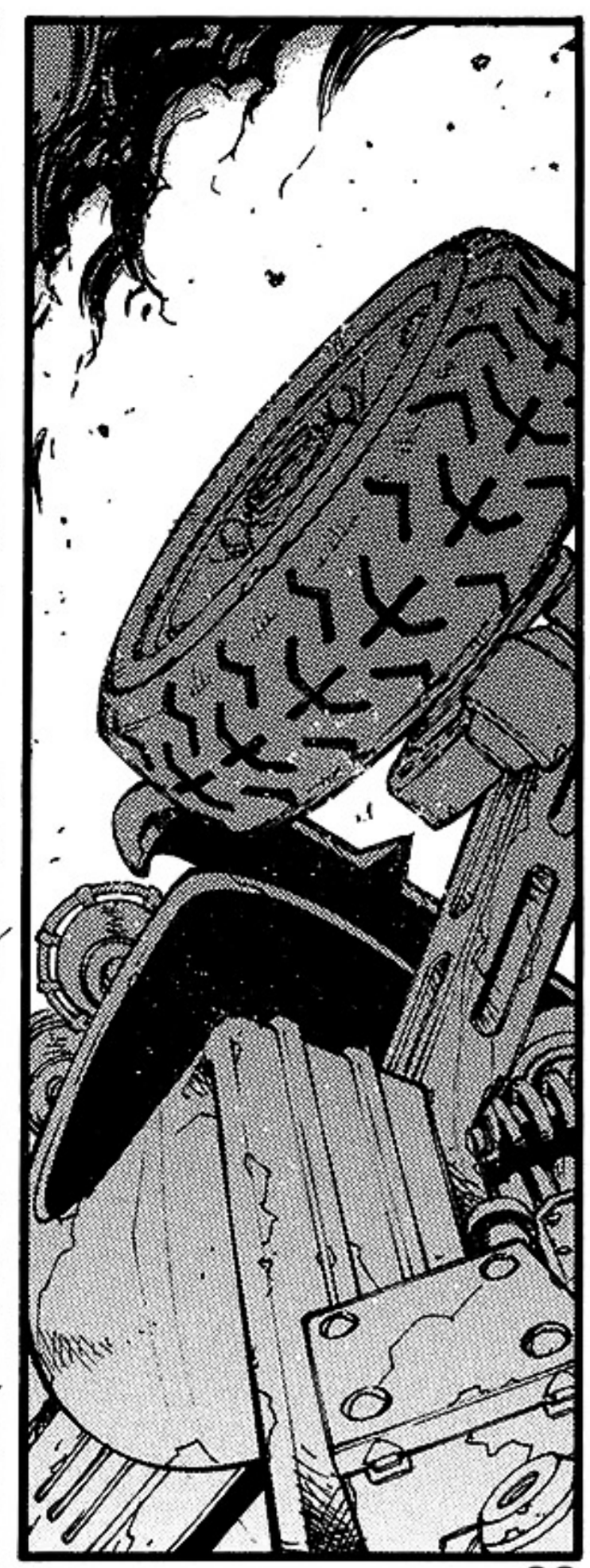

GO!!

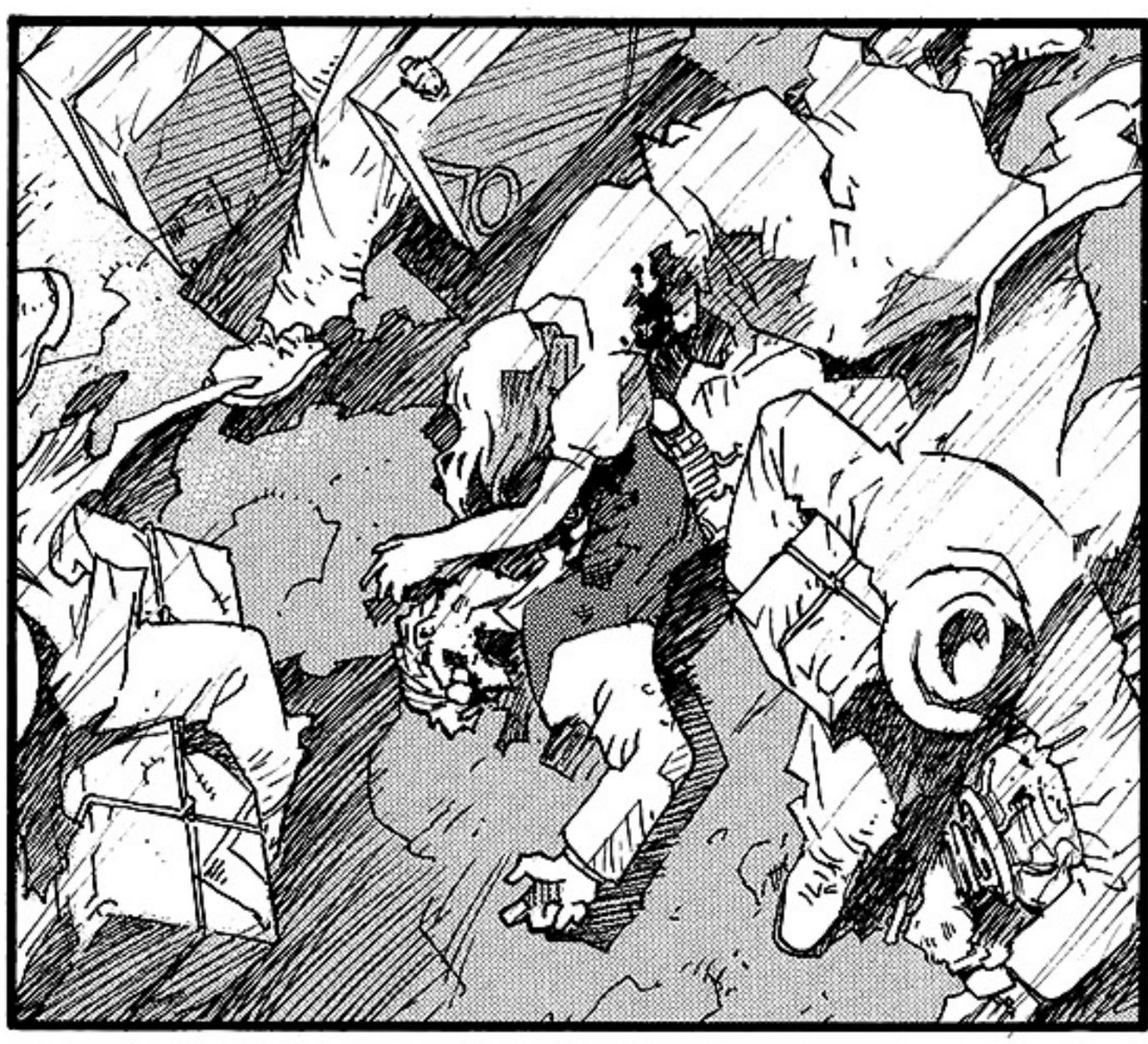





THE SPORADIC INFORMATION THAT MADE IT INTO CIRCULATION ONLY INFLAMED FEAR AND PANIC.


POLIP

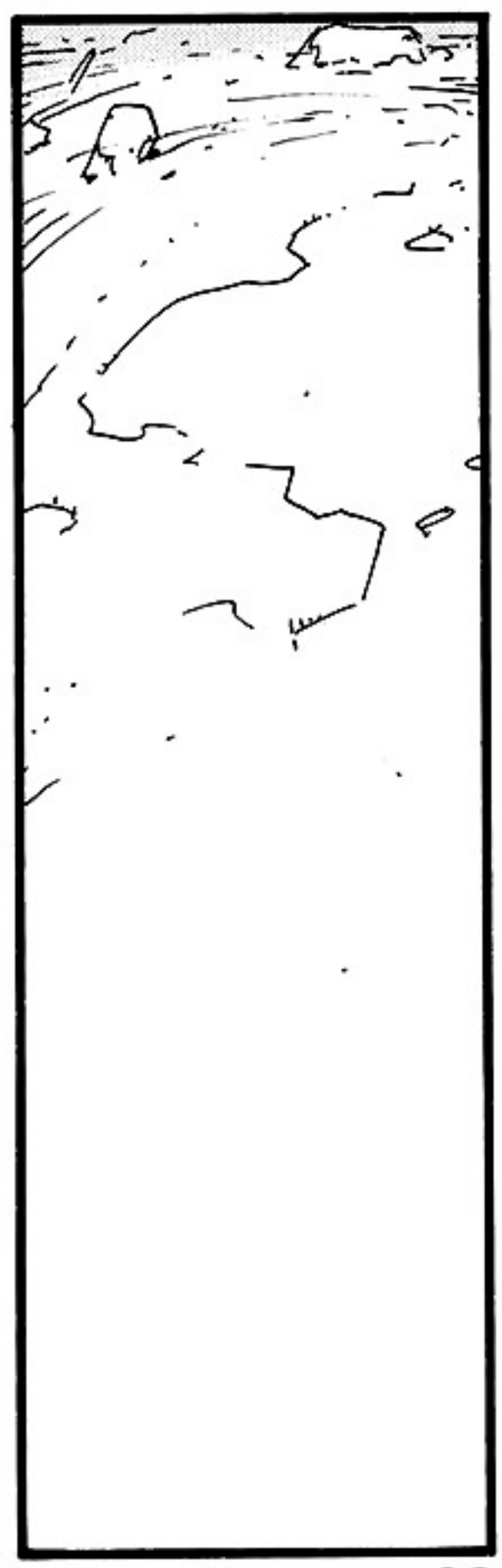


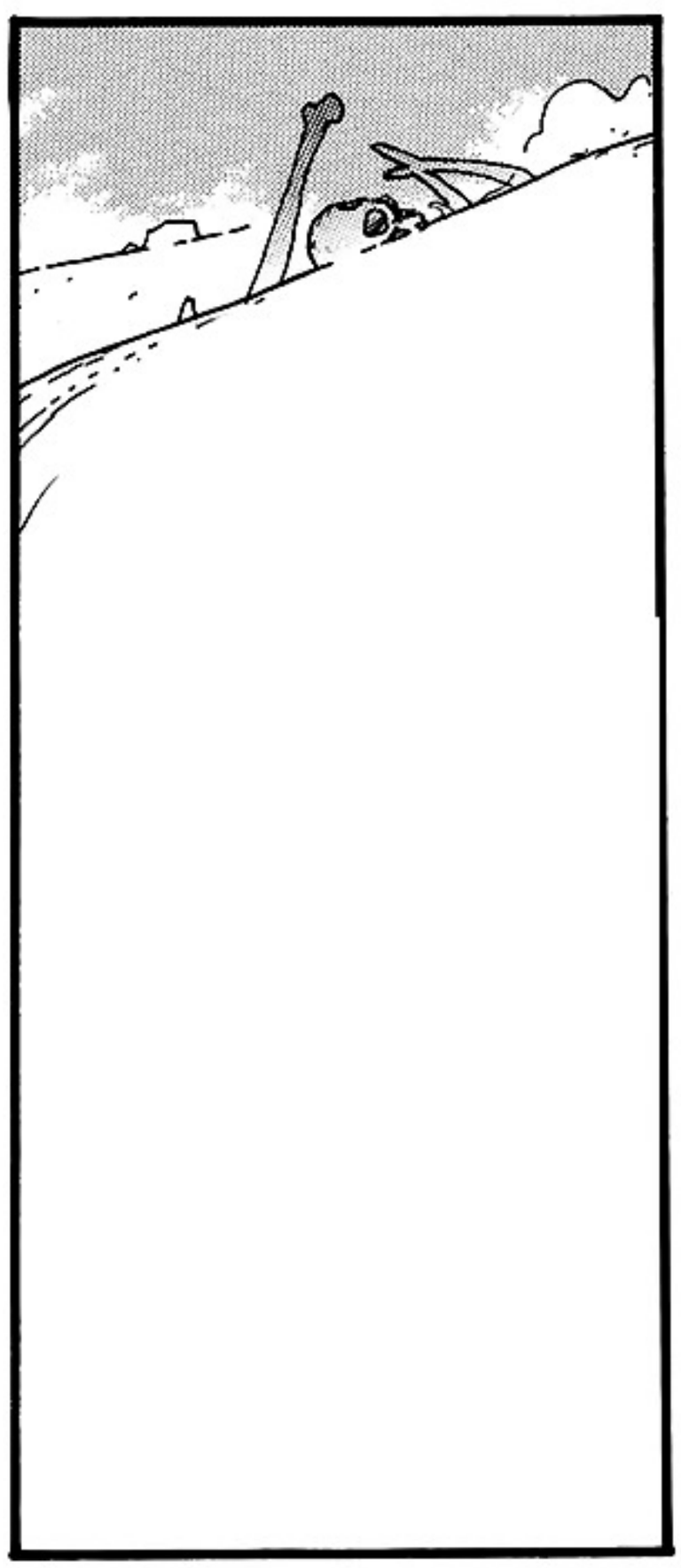


SOCIETY RETURNED TO CONDITIONS SIMILAR TO ONES SEEN DURING THE EARLIEST DAYS OF ITS SHORT HISTORY.

THE WORLD DRIED UP...

...AND BECAME EERILY QUIET.

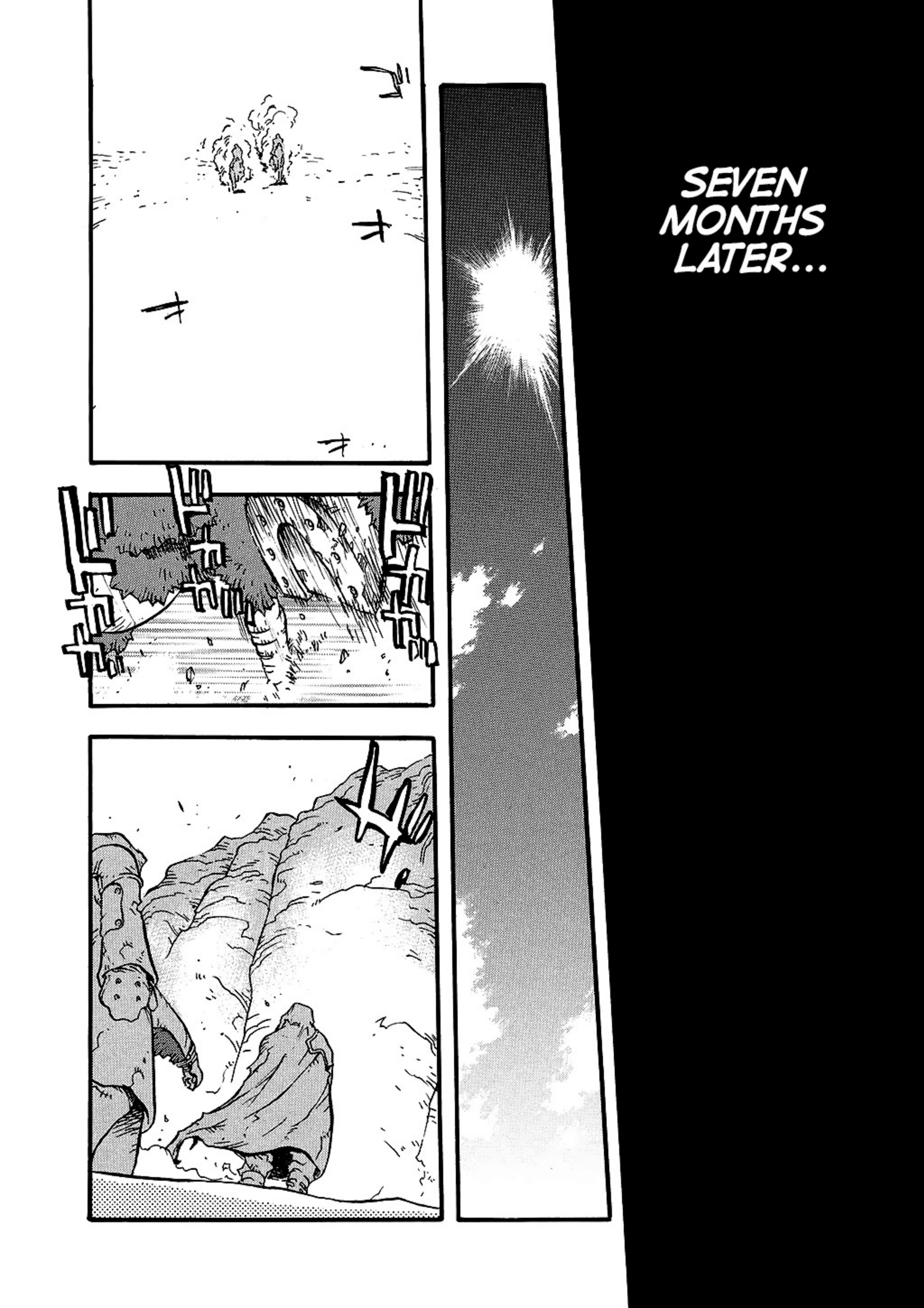


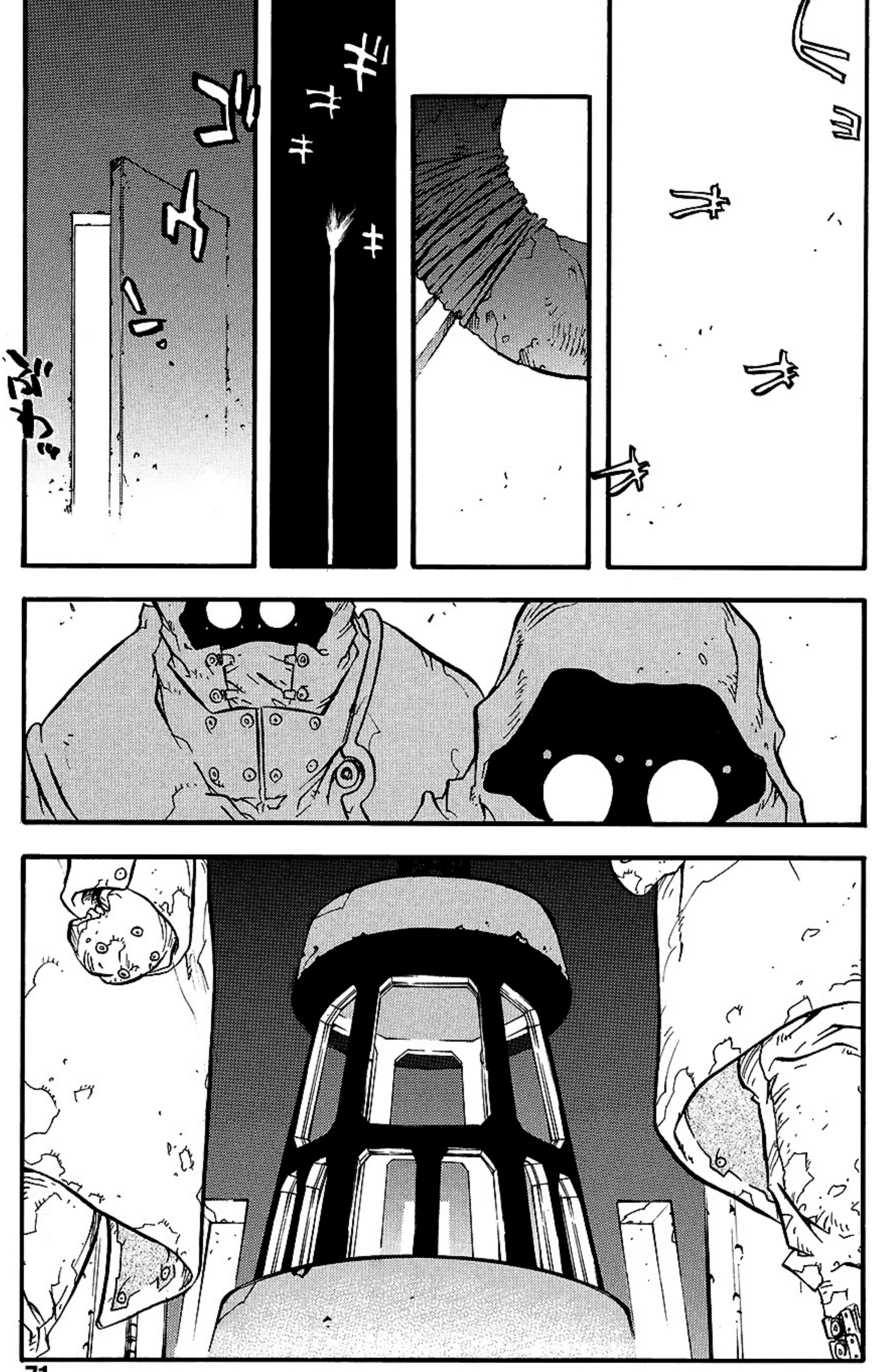


HUMANS HAD BEEN NOTHING MORE THAN BRIEF GUESTS ON THIS PLANET.

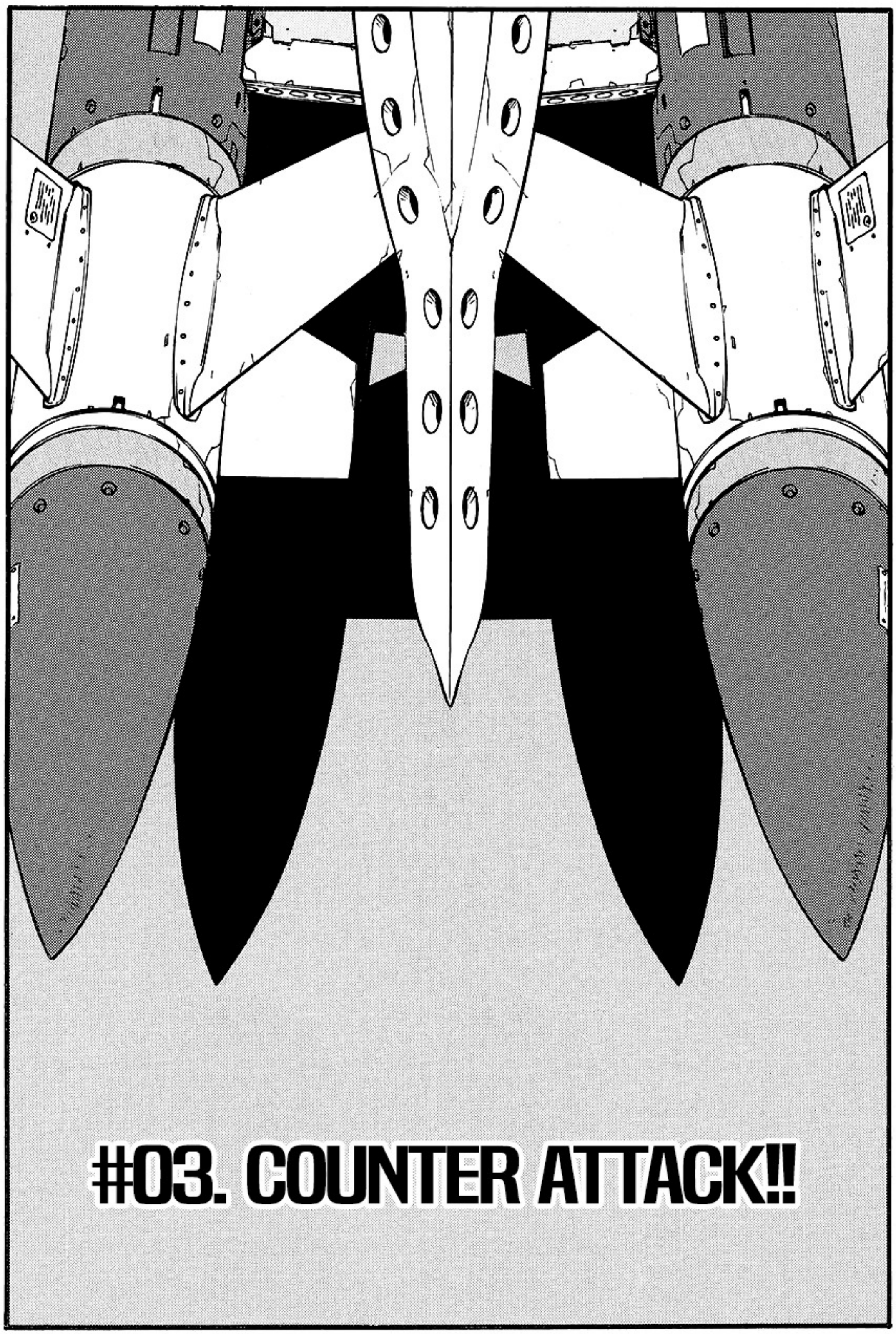
EVERYTHING WAS RETURNING TO ITS ORIGINAL STATE.

HUMANKIND, A MINOR SPECIES THAT ARRIVED HERE OVER 150 YEARS AGO, WAS ABOUT TO BECOME UTTERLY EXTINCT.

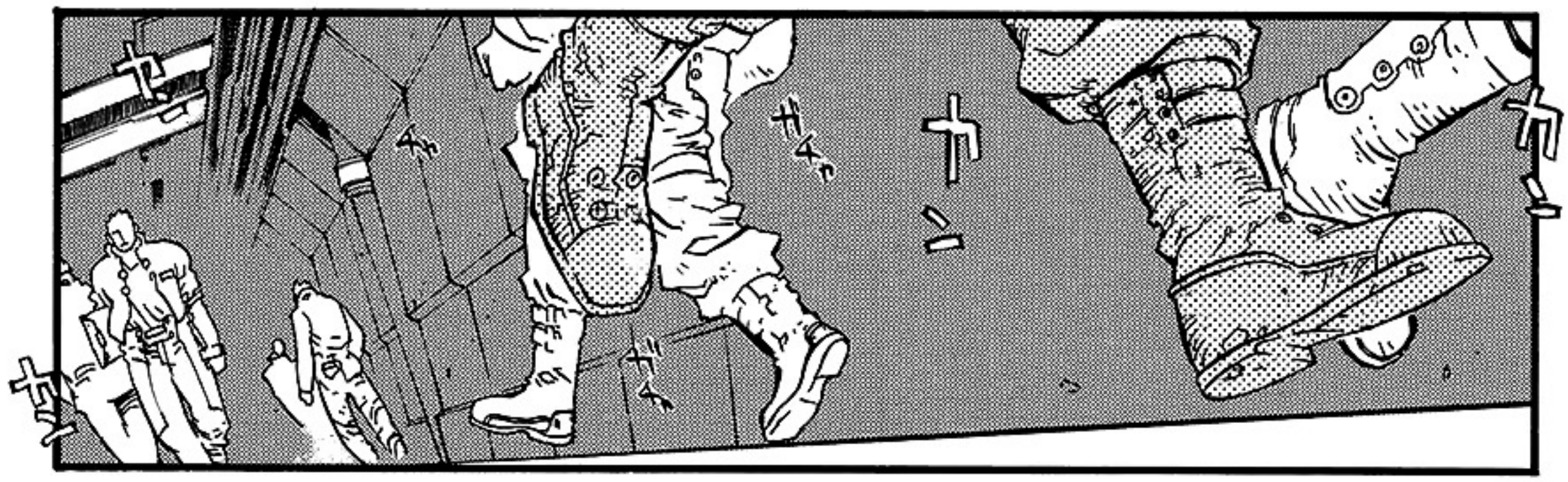

SEVEN MONTHS LATER...

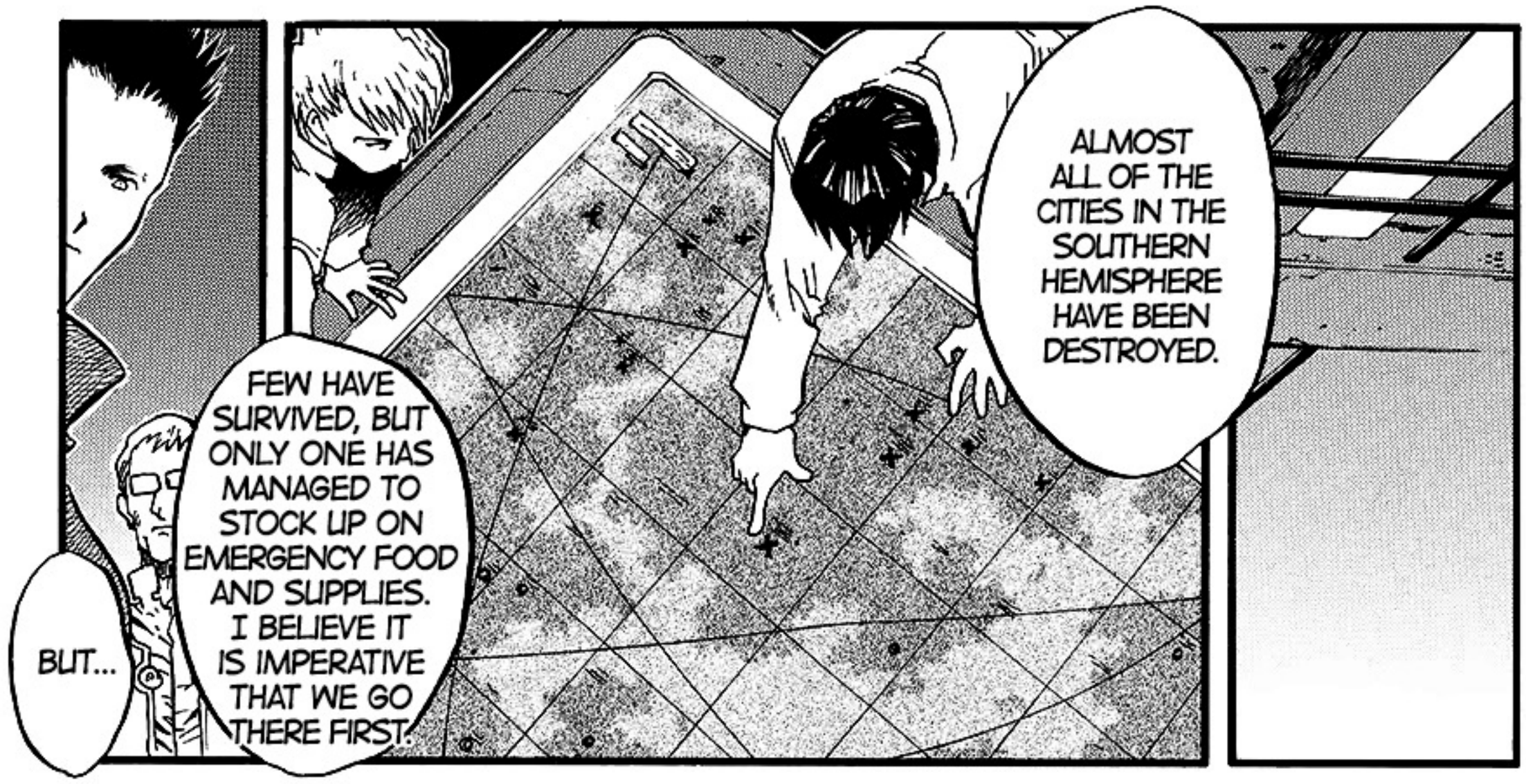


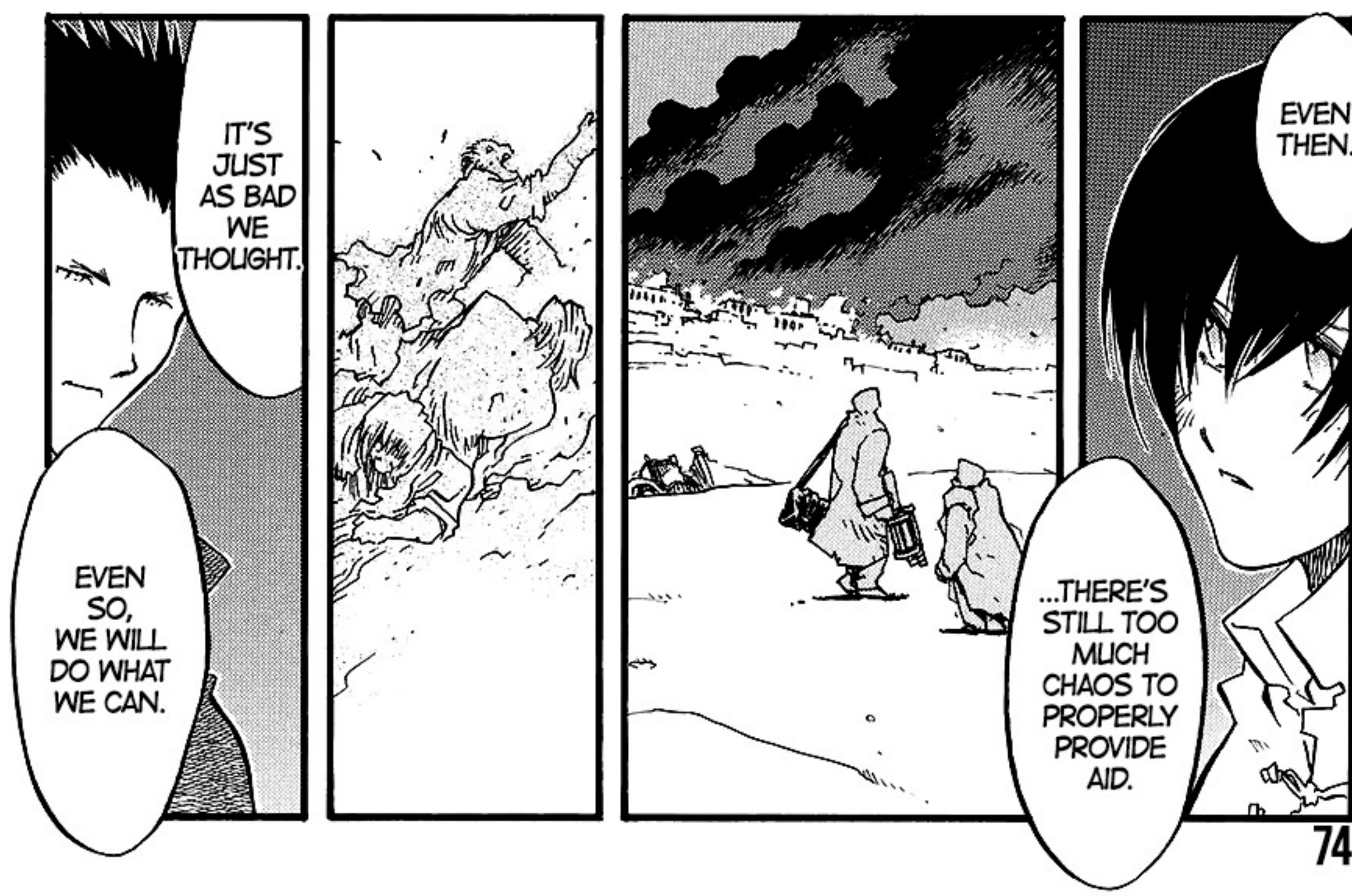
#02. SILENT RUIN / END



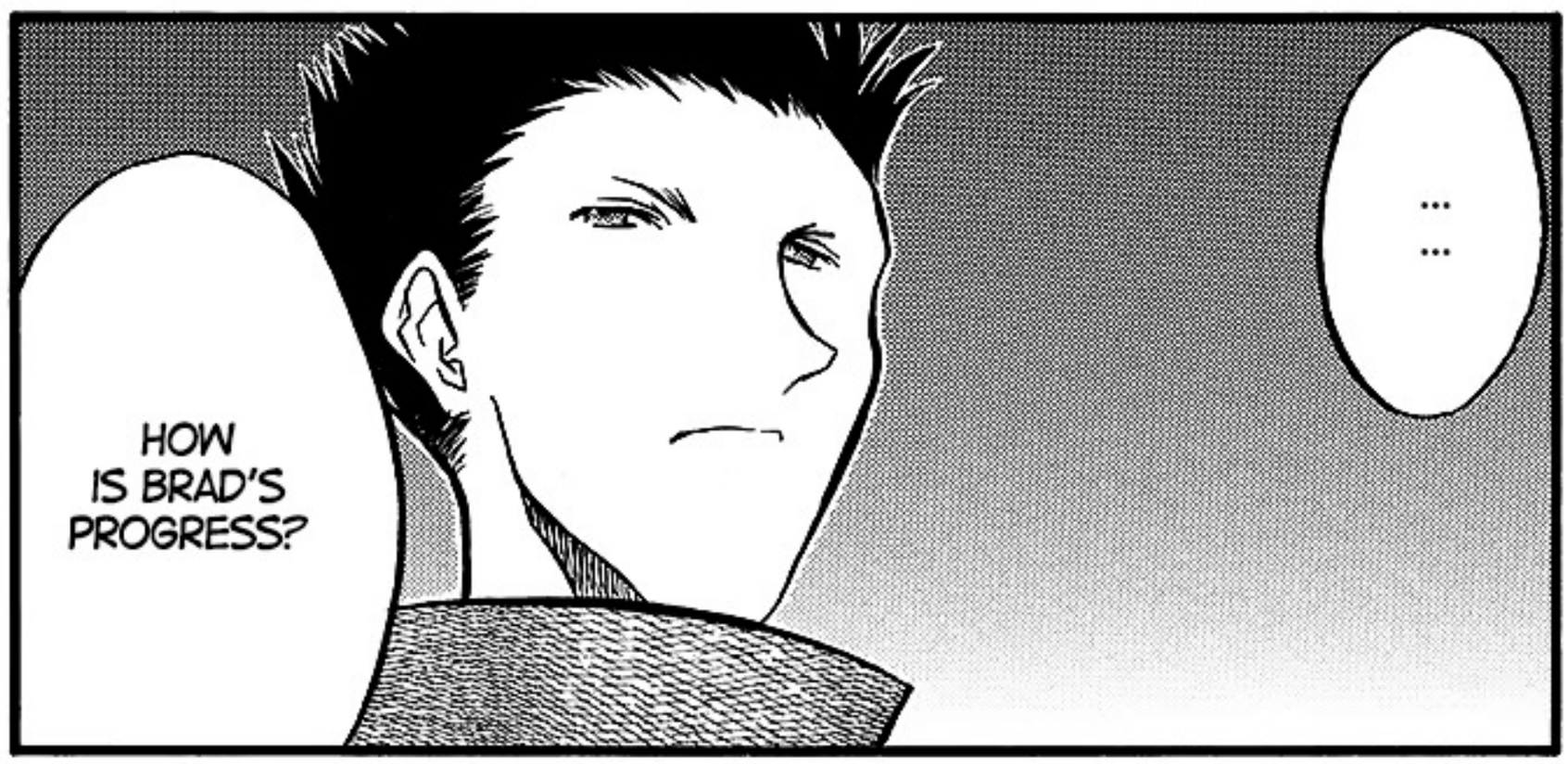
#03. COUNTER ATTACK!!



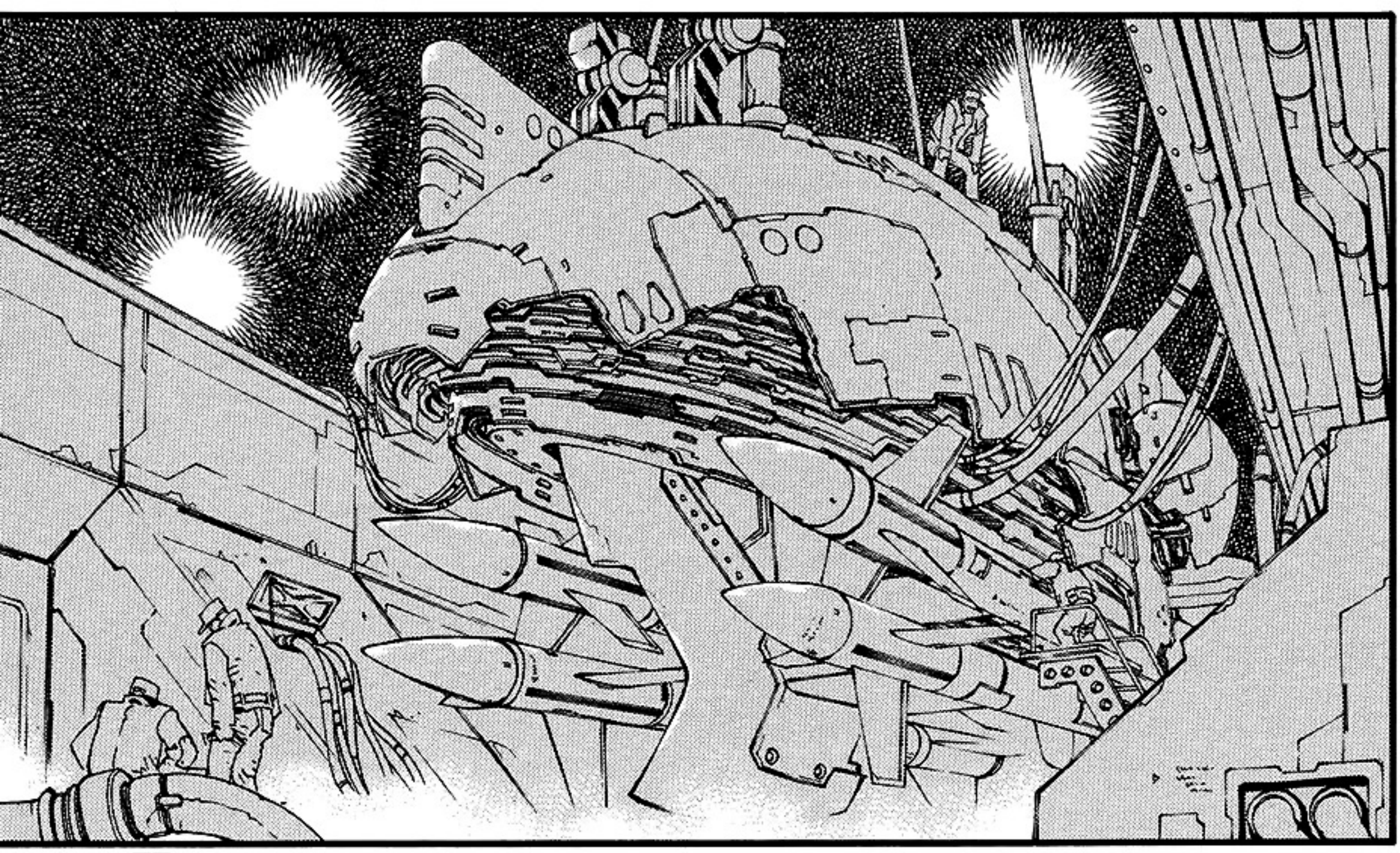

ALMOST ALL OF THE CITIES IN THE SOUTHERN HEMISPHERE HAVE BEEN DESTROYED.
FEW HAVE SURVIVED, BUT ONLY ONE HAS MANAGED TO STOCK UP ON EMERGENCY FOOD AND SUPPLIES. I BELIEVE IT IS IMPERATIVE THAT WE GO THERE FIRST.
BUT...


IT'S JUST AS BAD WE THOUGHT.
EVEN SO, WE WILL DO WHAT WE CAN.
EVEN THEN...
...THERE'S STILL TOO MUCH CHAOS TO PROPERLY PROVIDE AID.

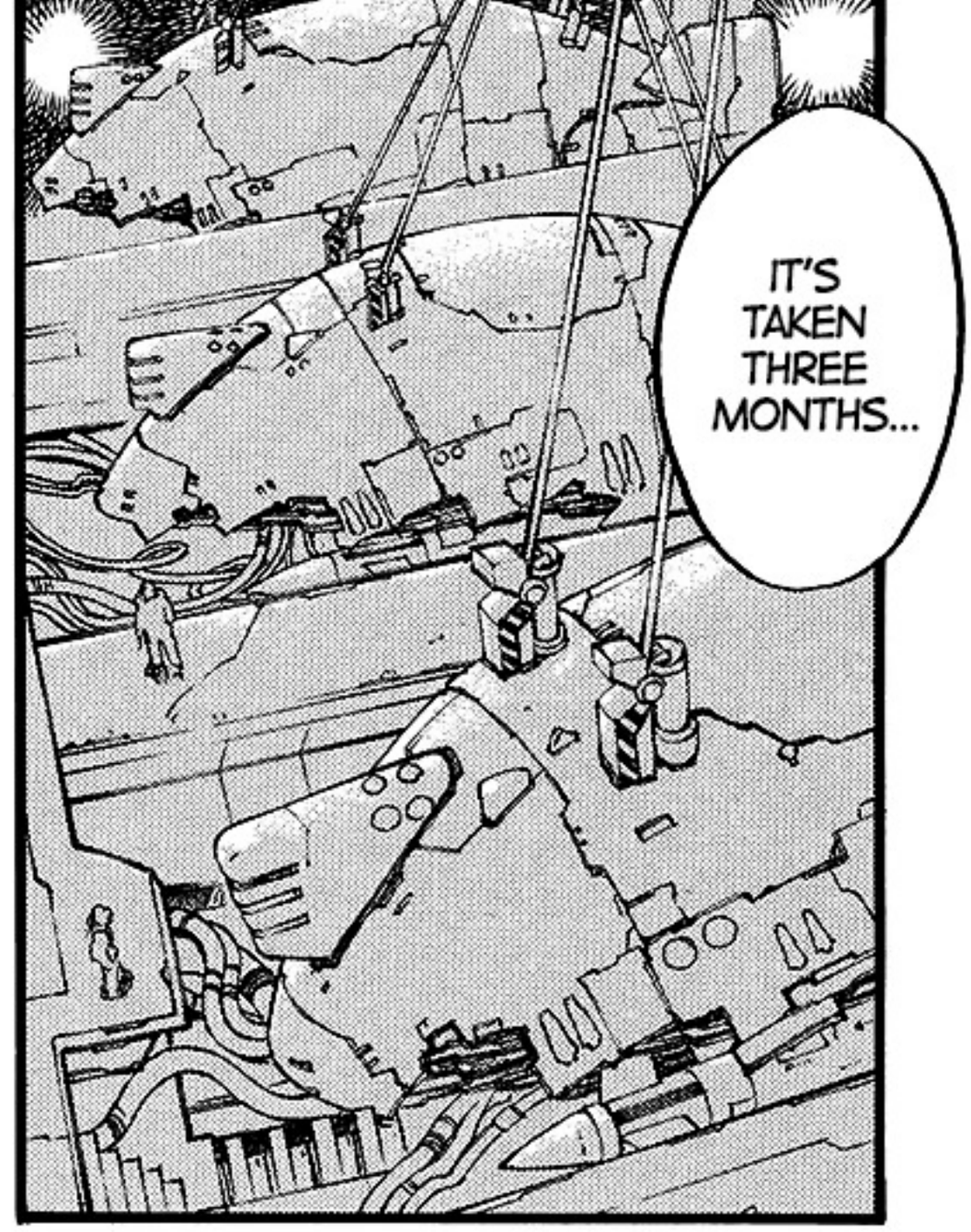
IN THE AREA BETWEEN EL PAZZO AND OLLERADO HILL.
WHERE?
WE ALSO HEARD THAT THE FEDERATION MILITARY IS PREPARING FOR A FULL SCALE COUNTER-ATTACK ON THE ARK.

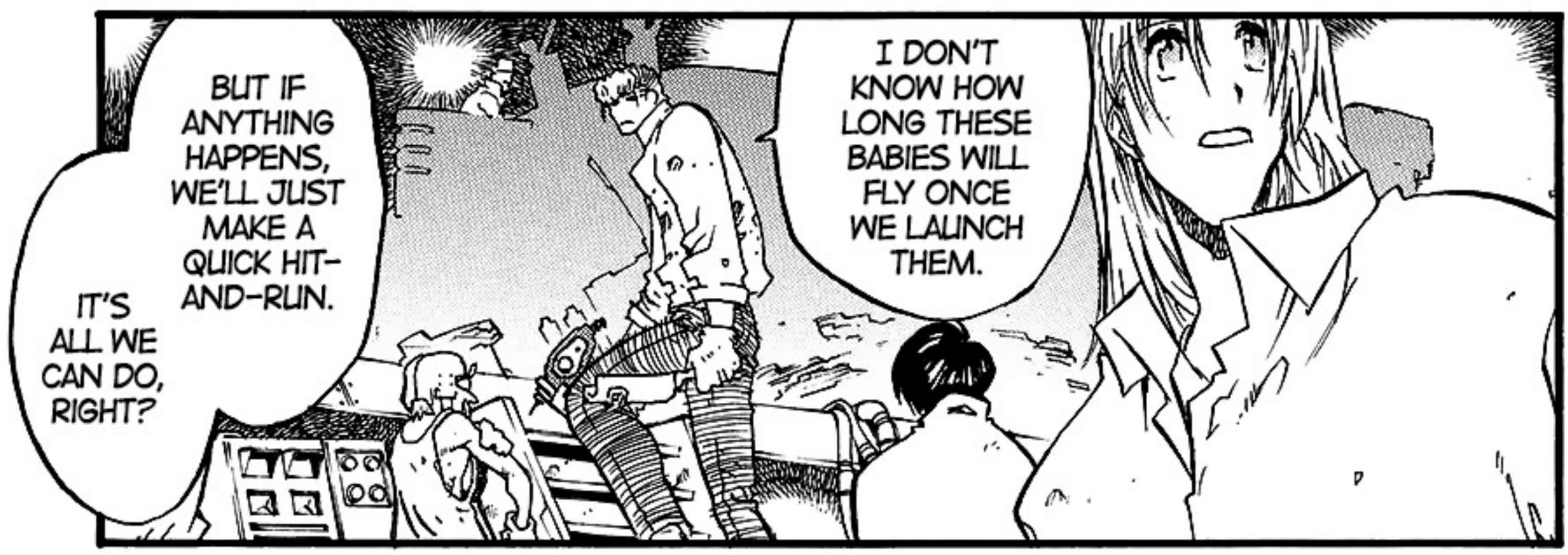

HOW IS BRAD'S PROGRESS?
...
...

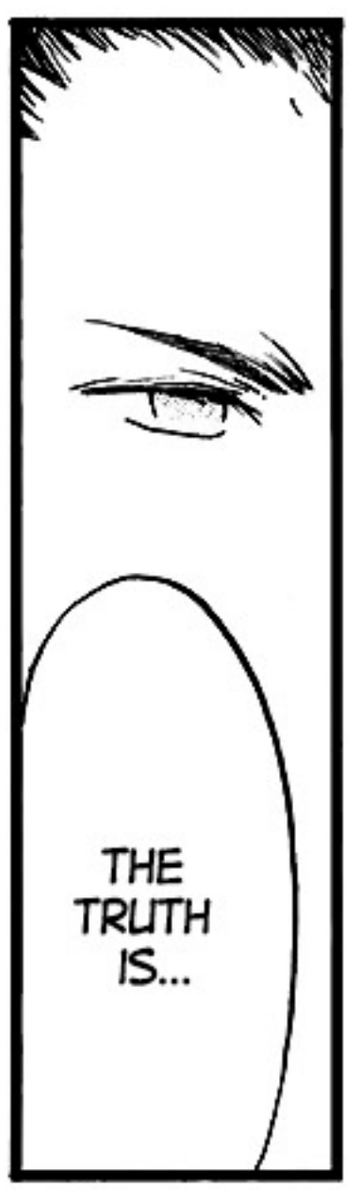
I WONDER IF IT'LL WORK AT ALL.

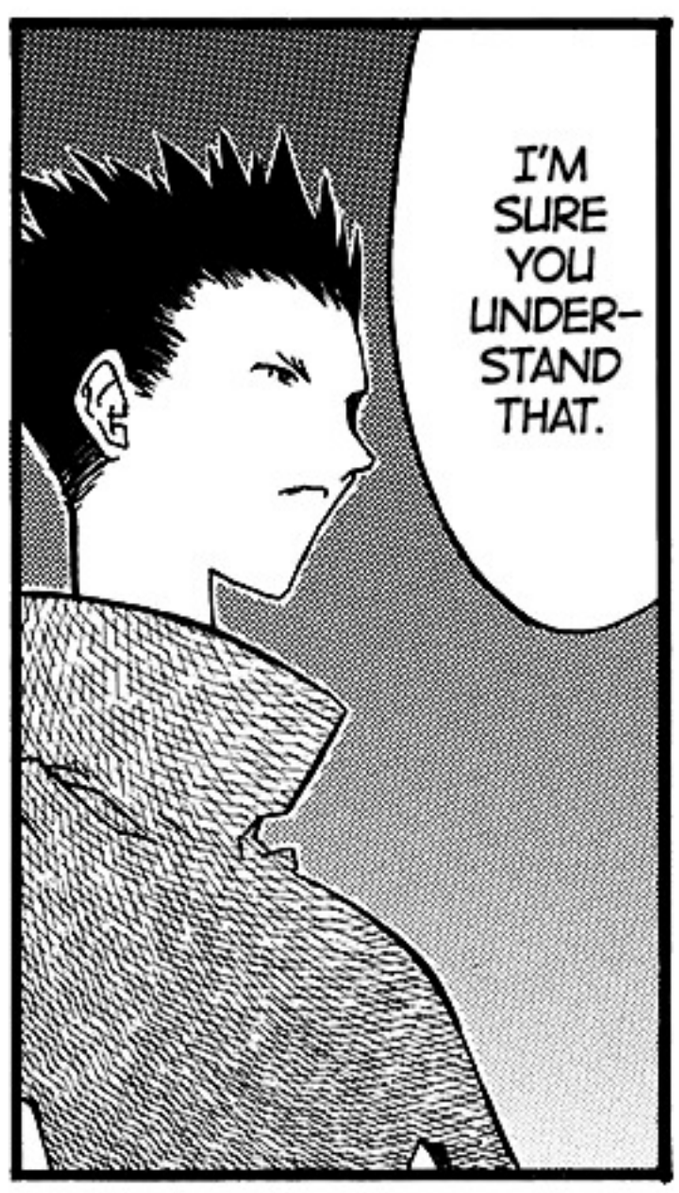


WE DID ALL WE COULD DO WITHOUT BORROWING PARTS FROM THE COLD SLEEP CAPSULES.
...BUT WE'VE OUT-FITTED THE SMALLEST SHIPS WITH THE BEST EQUIP-MENT.


IT'S TAKEN THREE MONTHS...


BUT IF ANYTHING HAPPENS, WE'LL JUST MAKE A QUICK HIT-AND-RUN.
IT'S ALL WE CAN DO, RIGHT?
I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG THESE BABIES WILL FLY ONCE WE LAUNCH THEM.


THE TRUTH IS...


I'M SURE YOU UNDER-STAND THAT.

CAN'T JUST SIT BY AND DO NOTHING.

...
...
YOU'RE GOING TO FIGHT?

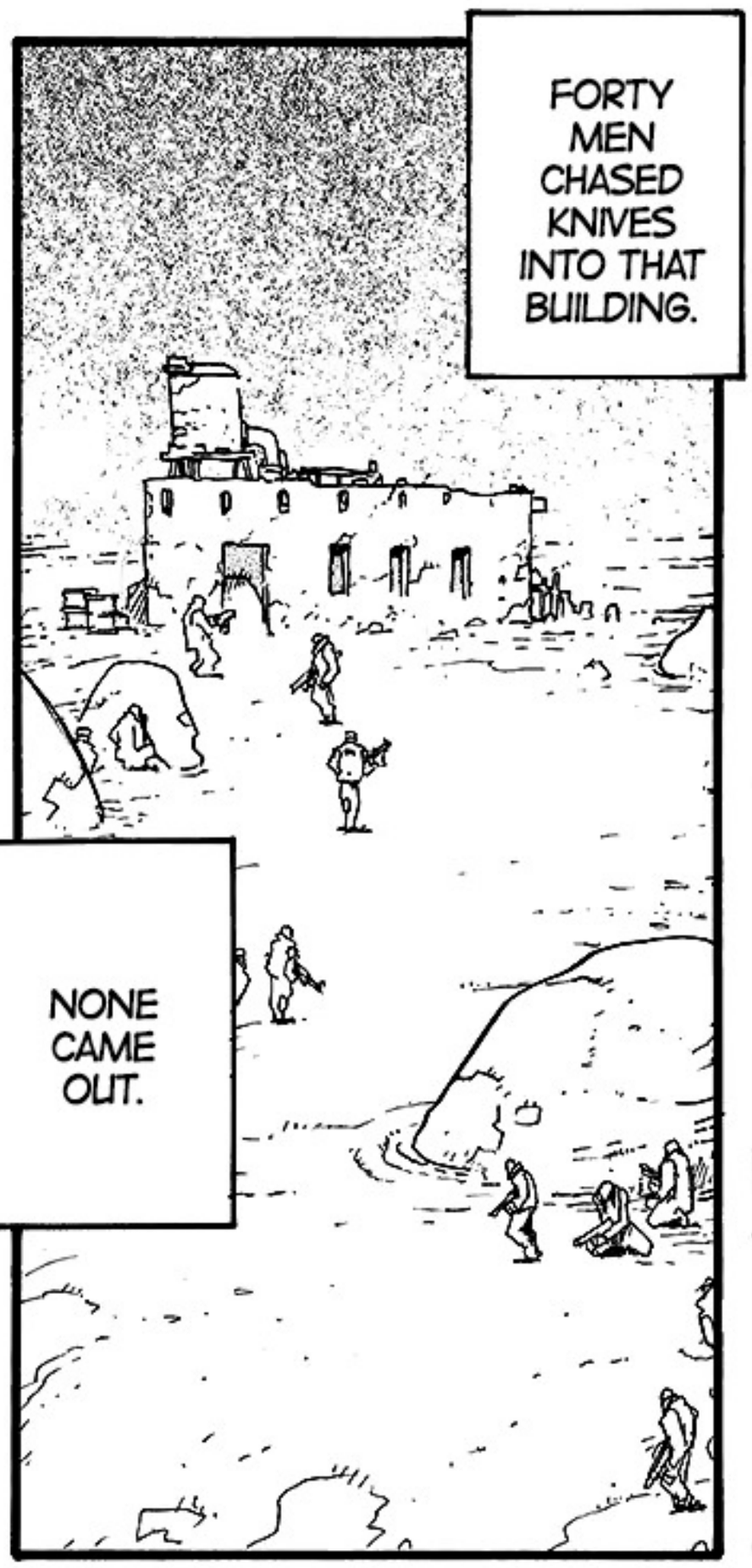
LUIDA, MA'AM, I...
...I KNOW EVERY-THING... ABOUT VASH'S PAST...
...IT WOULD BE REALLY HELPFUL IF *HE* SHOWED UP...

THEN...

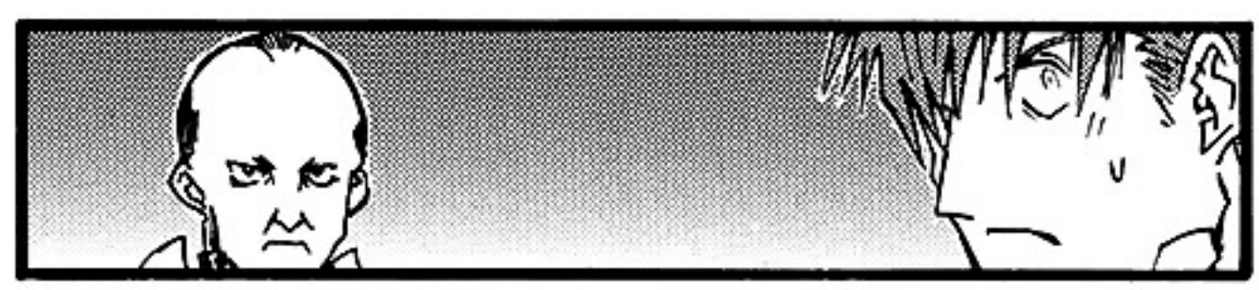
YES...

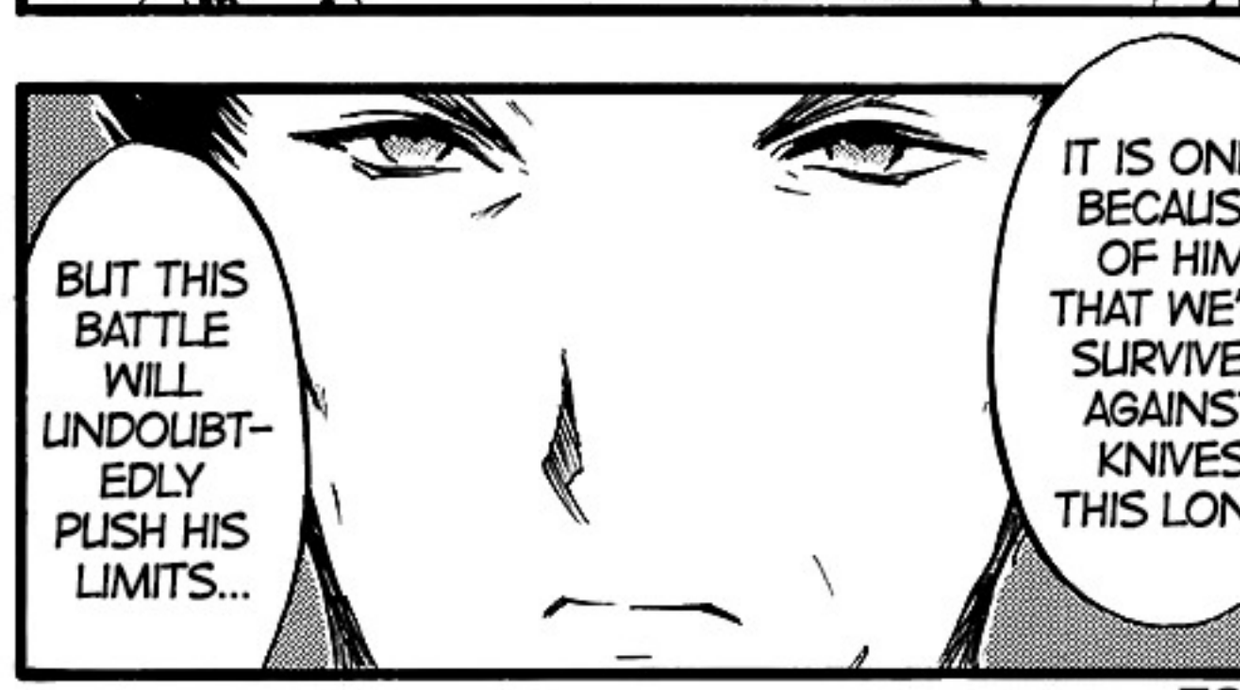
YOU SAW IT?
WHA-
WHAT HAPPENED IN JULY?

IT COULD END IN ANOTHER JULY.
THIS IS TERRIBLE.
I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT HE REALLY...
IF WHAT SHE IS SAYING IS TRUE... THEN THIS COULD BE EXTREMELY RISKY...


FORTY MEN CHASED KNIVES INTO THAT BUILDING.
NONE CAME OUT.

THIS DISCUSSION IS POINTLESS.
I WILL HEAR NO MORE OF IT.

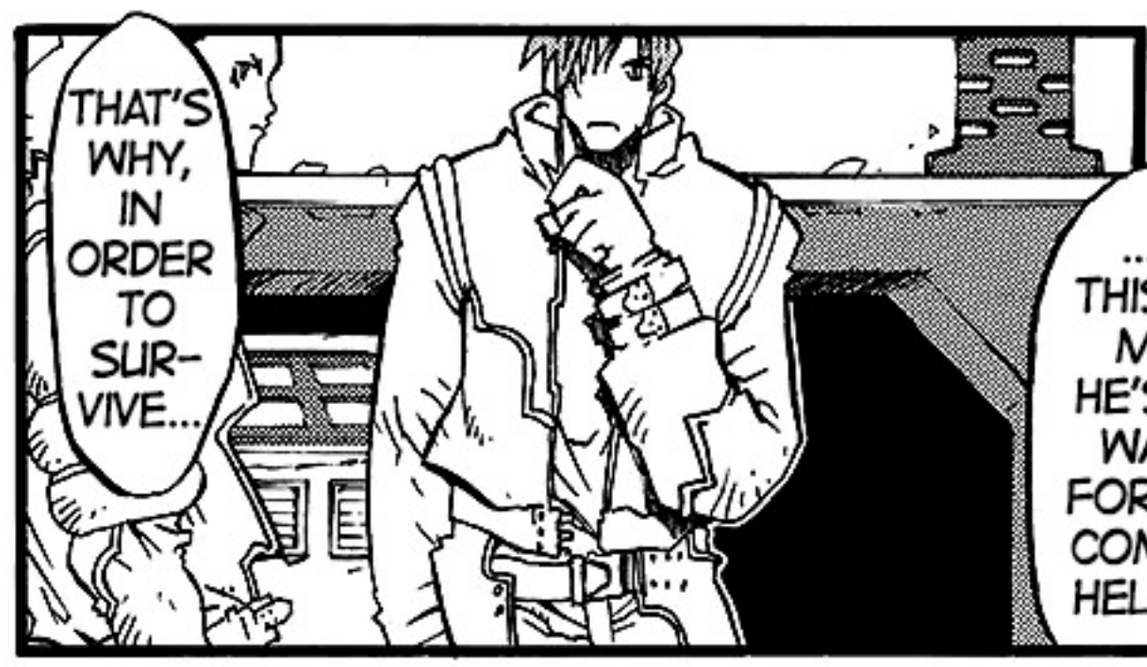



BUT THIS BATTLE WILL UNDOUBT-EDLY PUSH HIS LIMITS...
IT IS ONLY BECAUSE OF HIM THAT WE'VE SURVIVED AGAINST KNIVES THIS LONG.

WERE THEY KILLED?
NO, WORSE.
THEY WERE ERASED.
WHEN IT WAS OVER, KNIVES CALMLY WALKED OUT...
...AND THERE WAS NO TRACE OF THE FORTY MEN INSIDE OF THE HOUSE.
AGAINST THAT KIND OF POWER...
...WE...
STOP!
...
...
THERE'S NOTHING YOU CAN DO.
I WILL...
...TAKE CARE OF HIM.
...
...
DON'T WORRY.

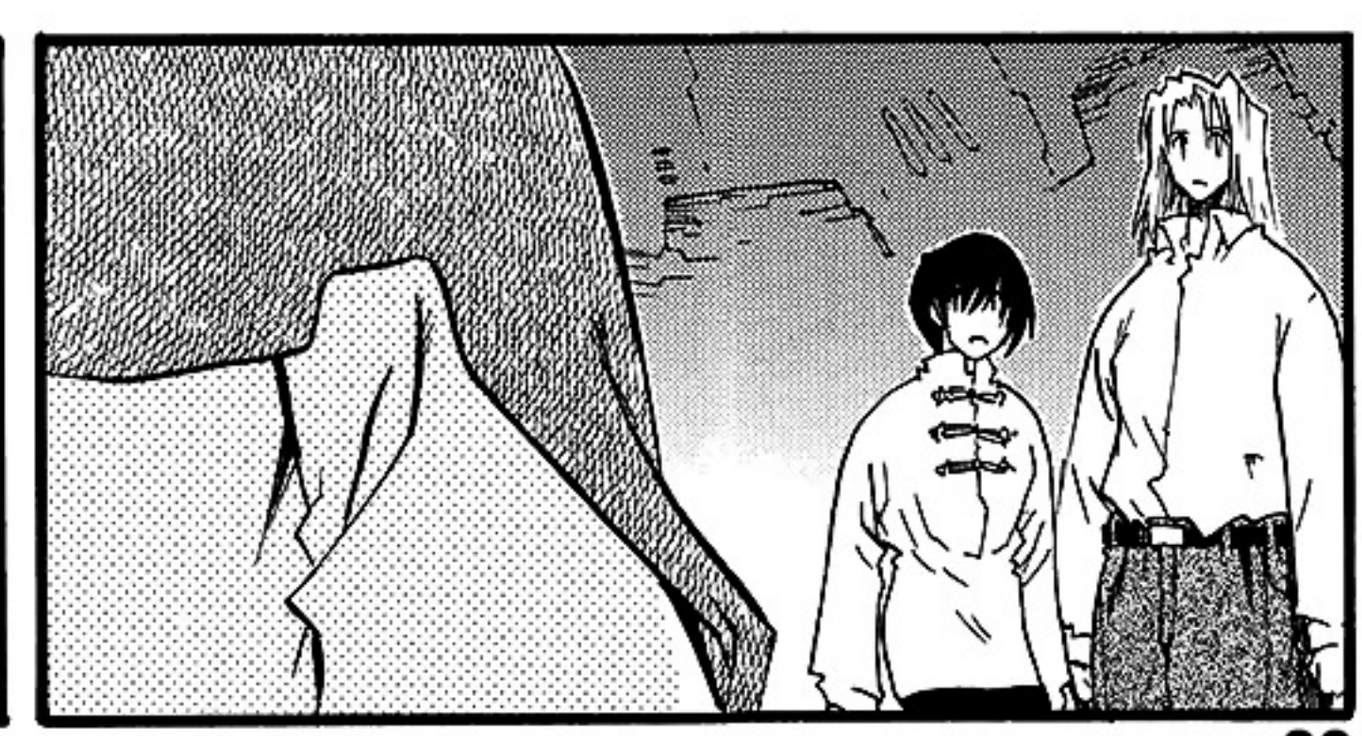
THIS TIME...
...HE'S PROBABLY FIGHTING ON HIS OWN AGAIN.

I'M A LOT...
...STUR-DIER THAN I LOOK.


THAT'S WHY, IN ORDER TO SUR-VIVE...
...ALL THIS TIME, MAYBE HE'S BEEN WAITING FOR *US* TO COME AND HELP *HIM*.

I BELIEVE IN HIM... BUT I WONDER...

...WE'RE COMING TO *HIS* RESCUE, THIS ONE TIME WHEN IT REALLY COUNTS!



I...

...WAS THINKING FOR A MOMENT.

I'M SORRY.

MISS LUIDA...?

...

...

...

...

I'M A TERRIBLE WOMAN.

IF SOMETHING LIKE JULY *WOULD* HAPPEN AGAIN...

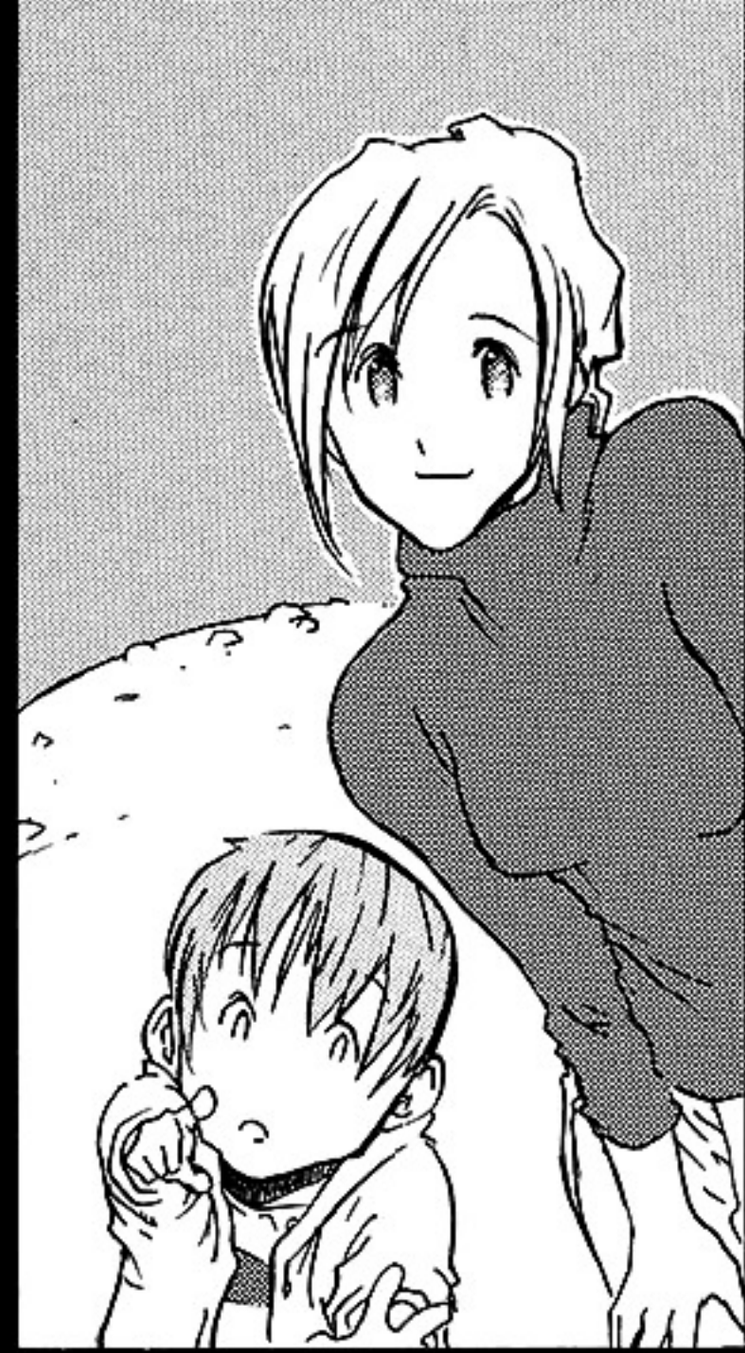
...IT *COULD* STOP KNIVES, BUT...

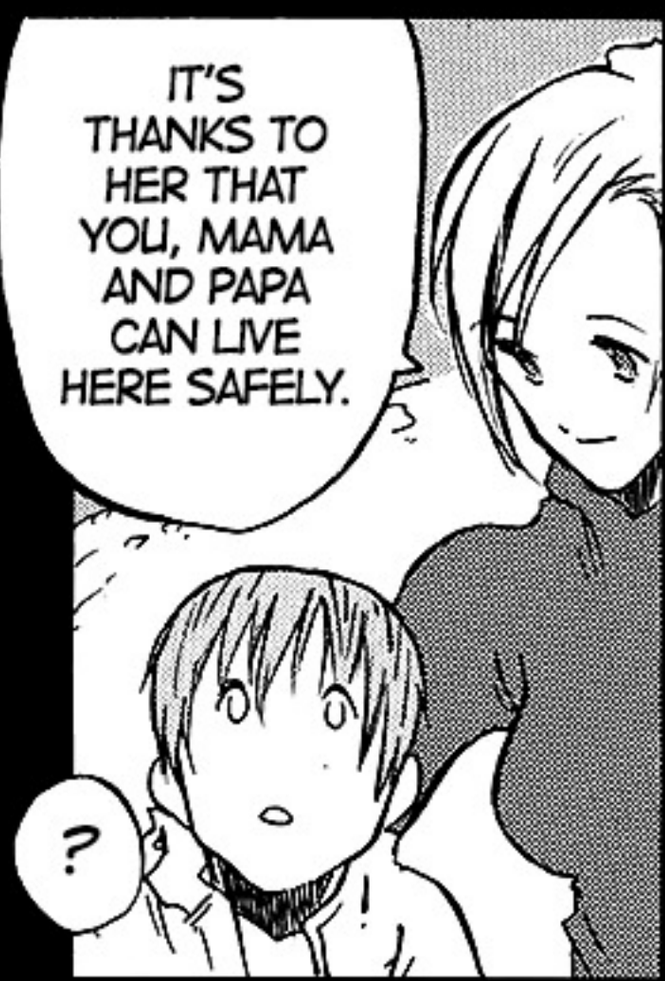
MISS LUIDA...

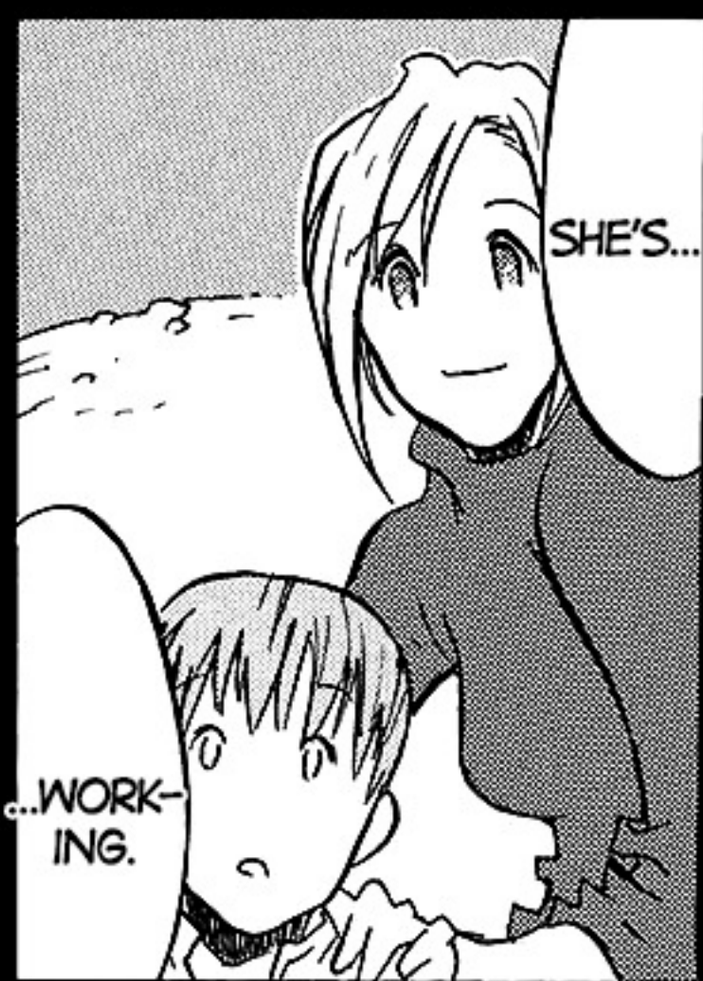
I FEEL THE SAME WAY...

ALL THIS TIME, I'VE BEEN *NOTHING* BUT A COWARD...

SHE'S PRETTY, ISN'T SHE?
WHY...

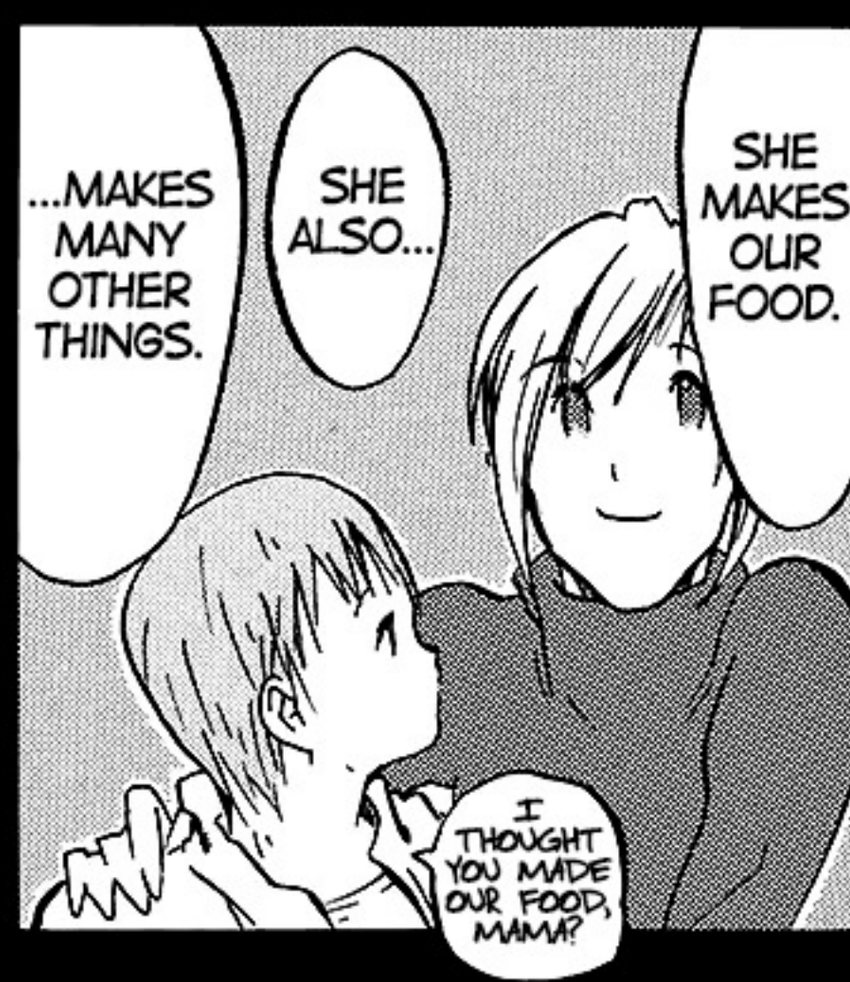

MAMA.
MAMA, LOOK!


IT'S THANKS TO HER THAT YOU, MAMA AND PAPA CAN LIVE HERE SAFELY.
?


SHE'S...
...WORK-ING.

...IS SHE IN THERE?

LET'S SAY THANK YOU TOGETH-ER.
OKAY!


SHE MAKES OUR FOOD.
SHE ALSO...
...MAKES MANY OTHER THINGS.
I THOUGHT YOU MADE OUR FOOD, MAMA?

THAA AAAA ANKS!
THANK YOU VERY MUCH.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUES-TIONS, JUST ASK.

WHAT'S UP?
OH. HEY, YOU TWO.

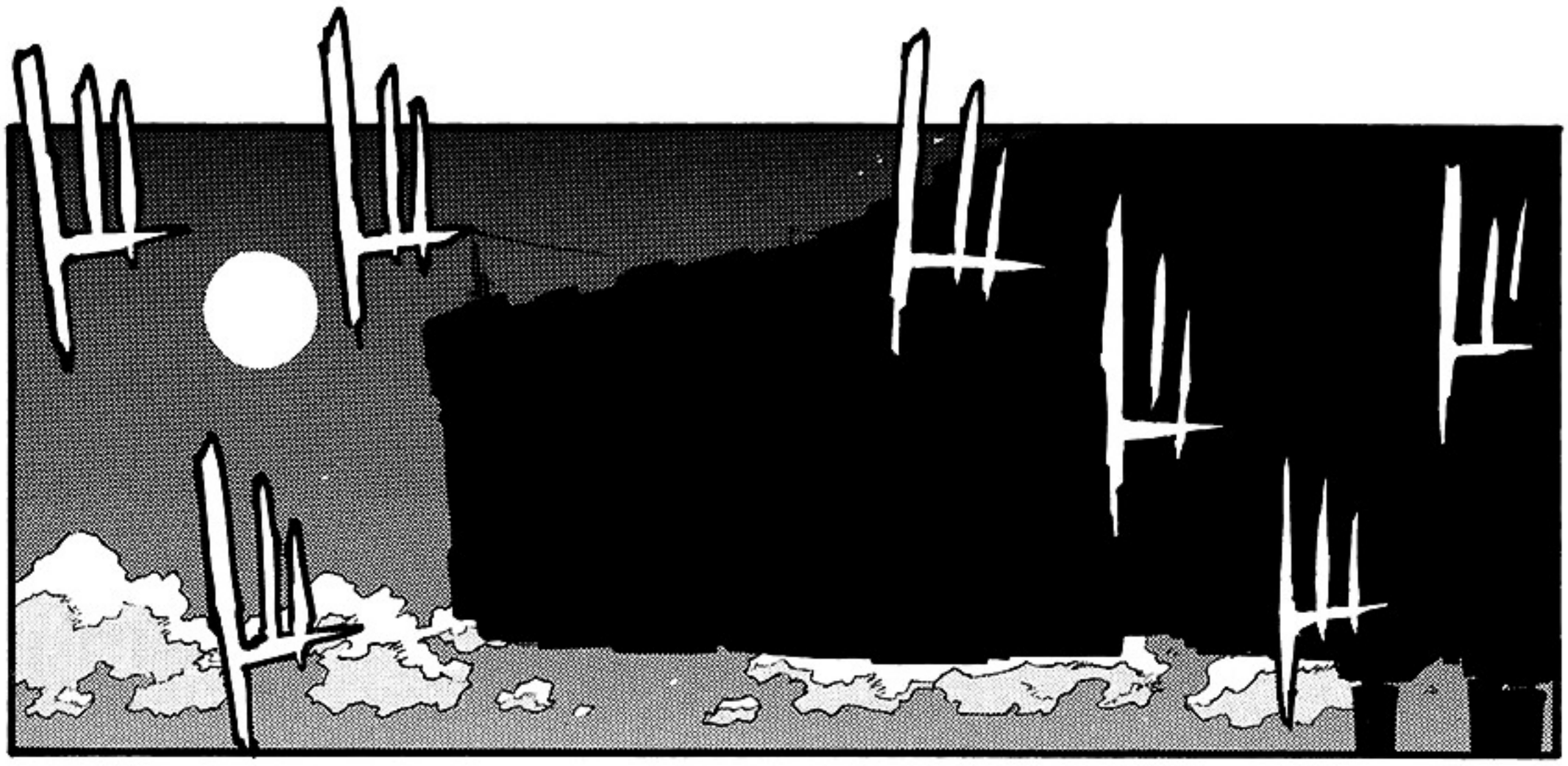
SEE ?

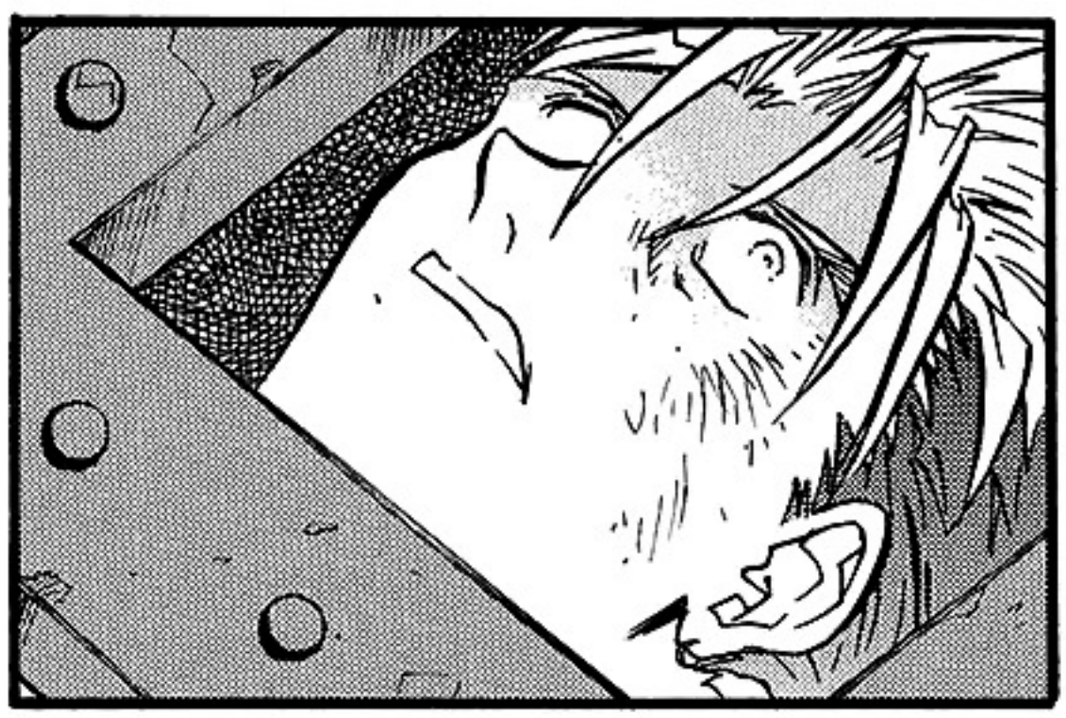
SHE SMILED!

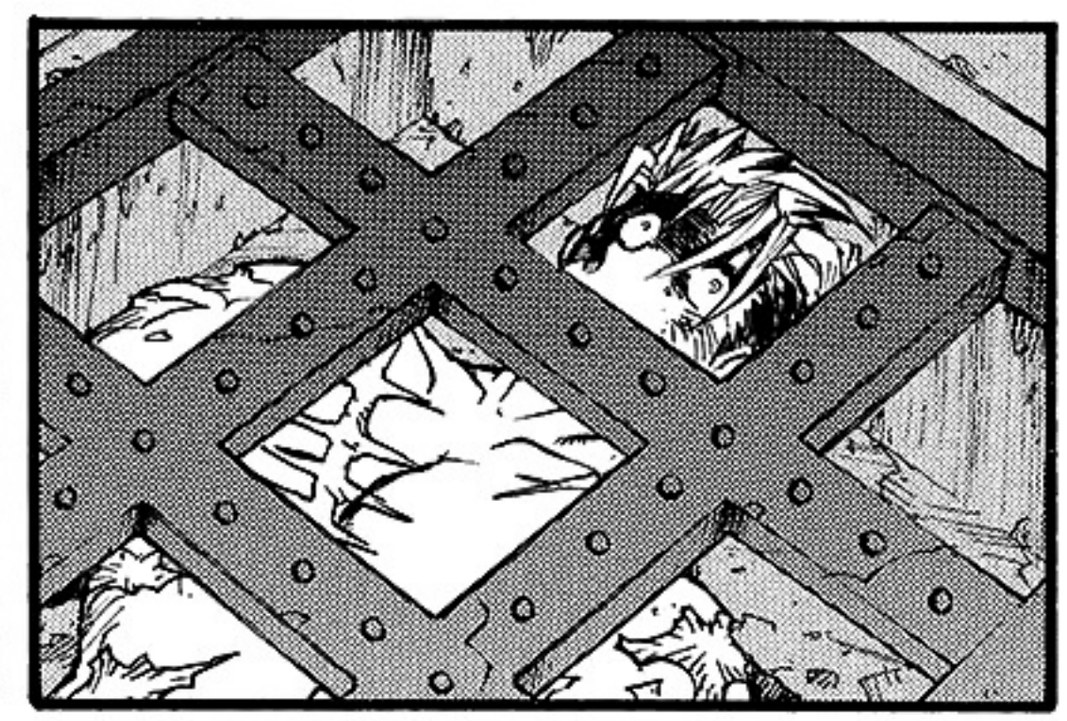
MAMA, LOOK!

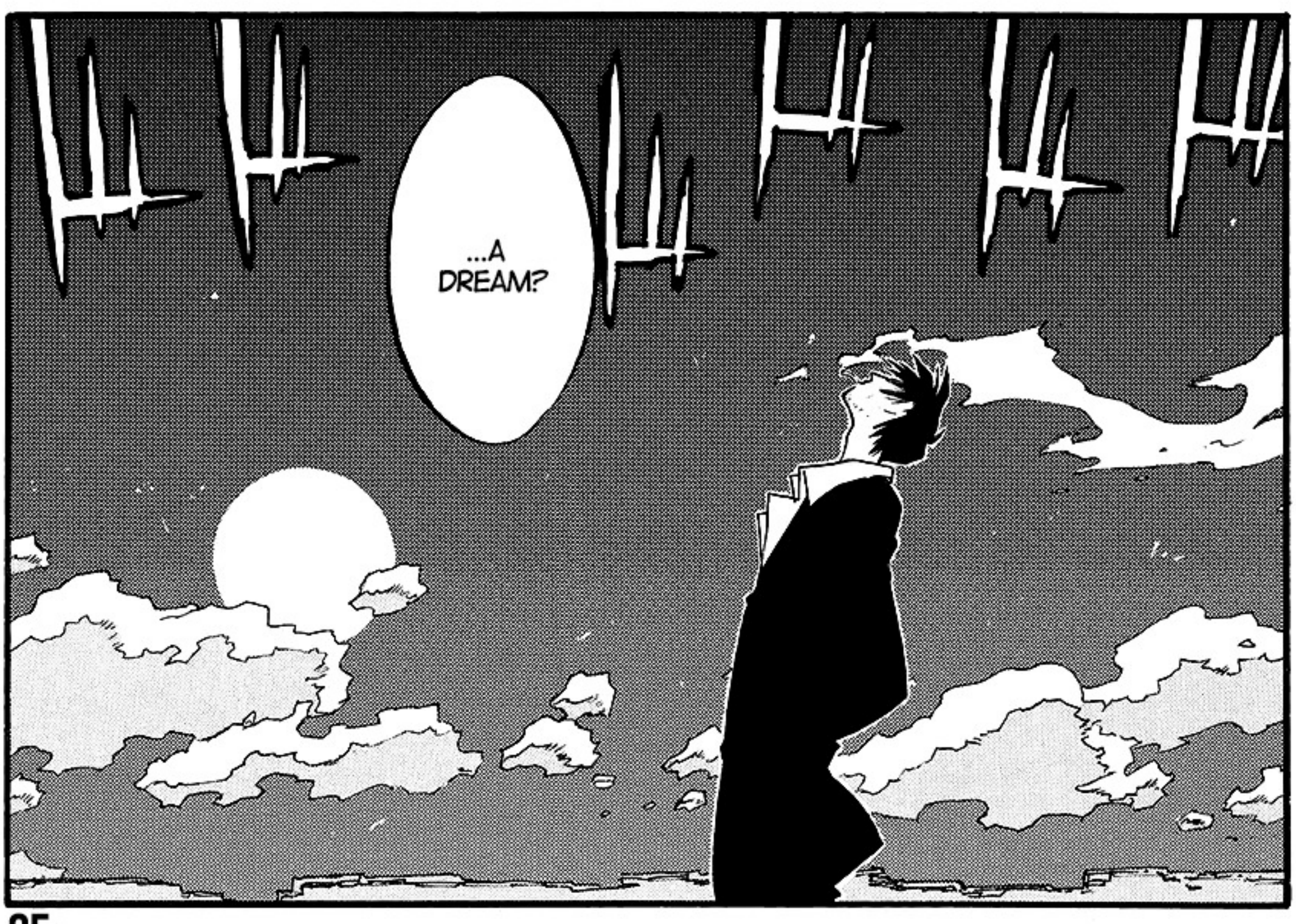
SHE SMILED...

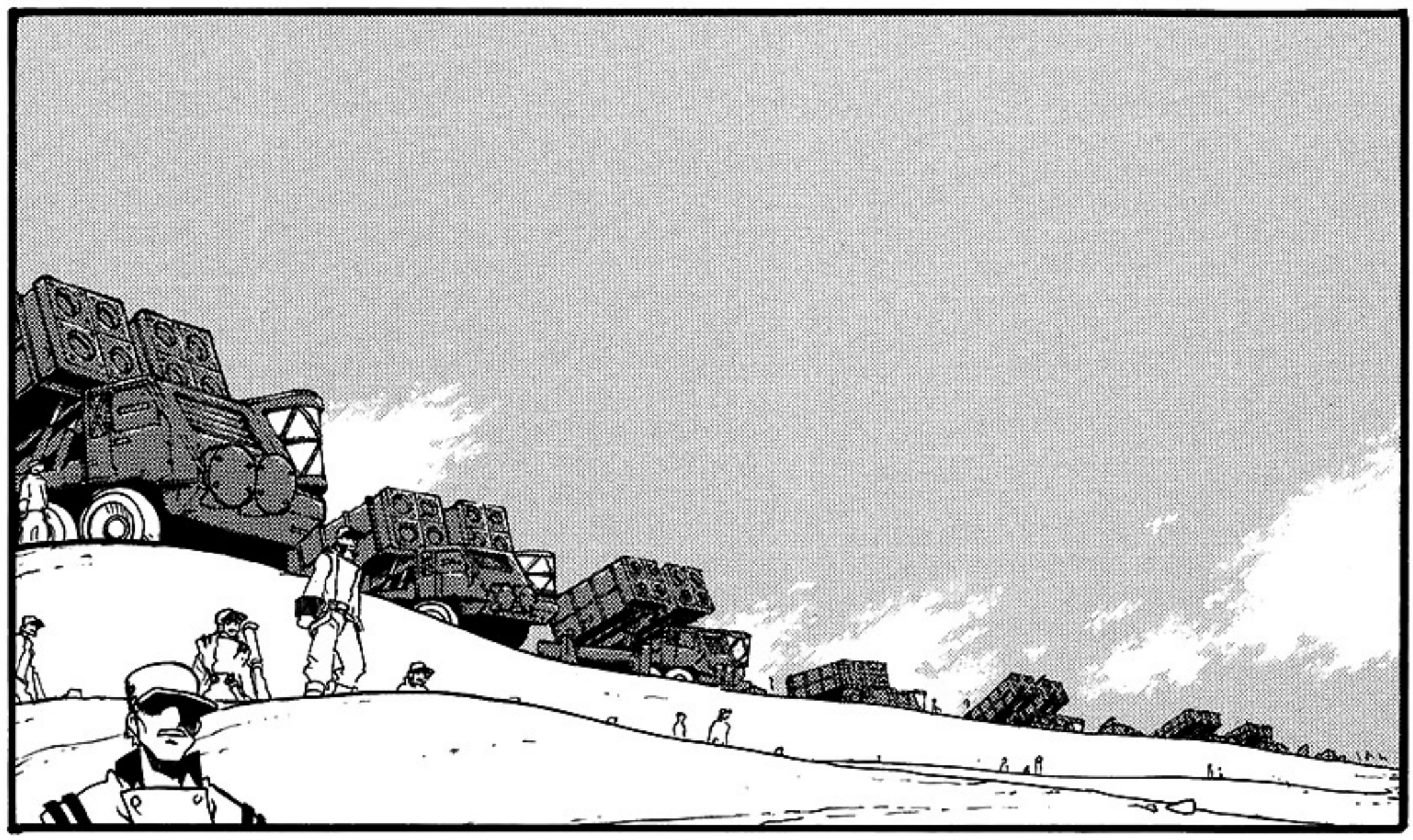
...?
WAS THAT...

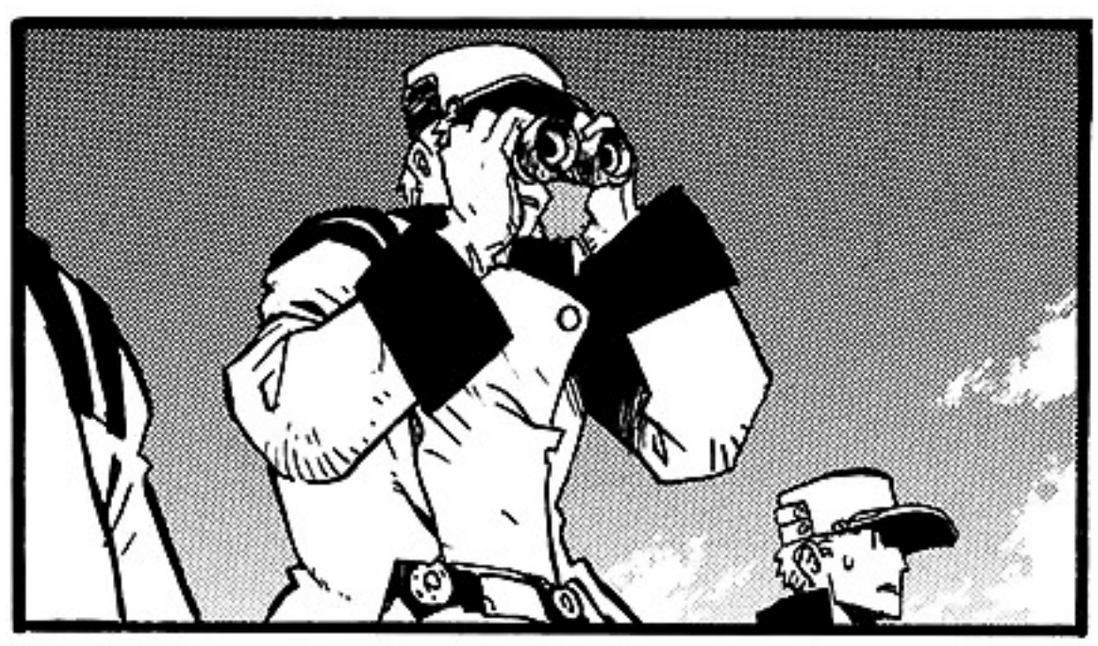


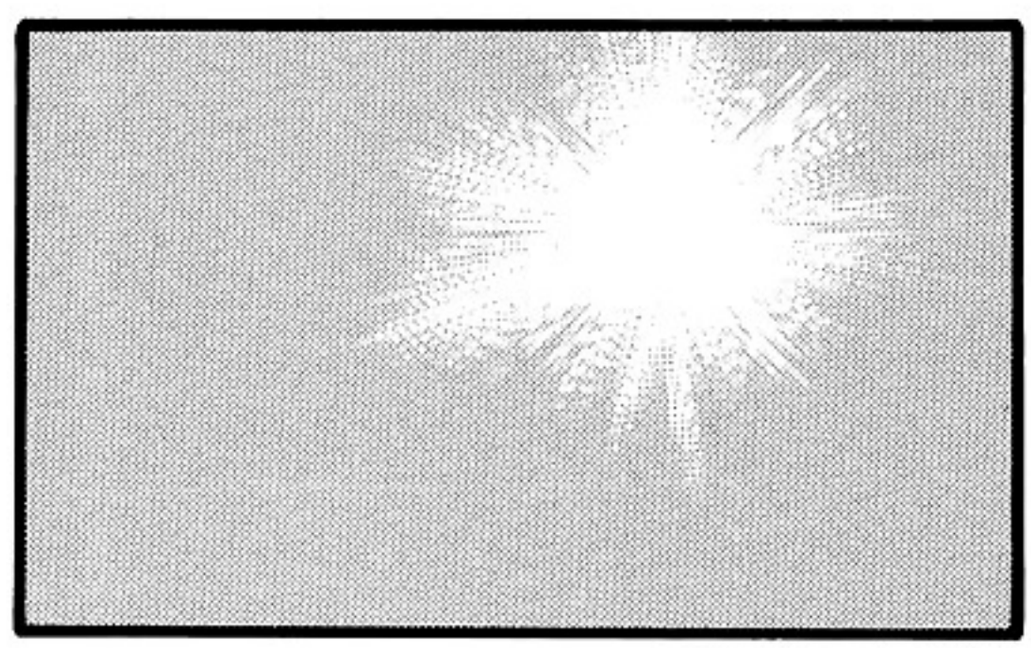


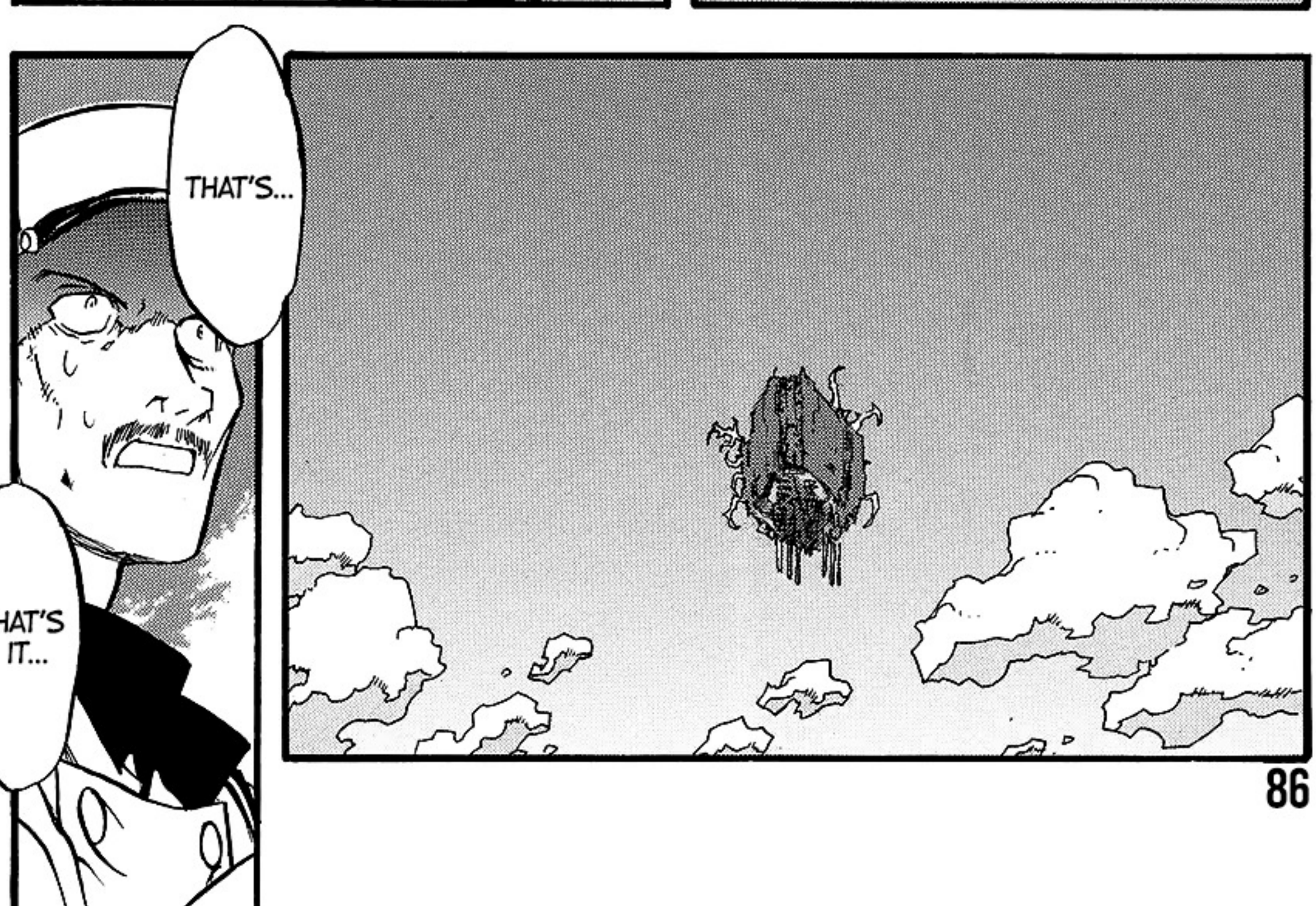


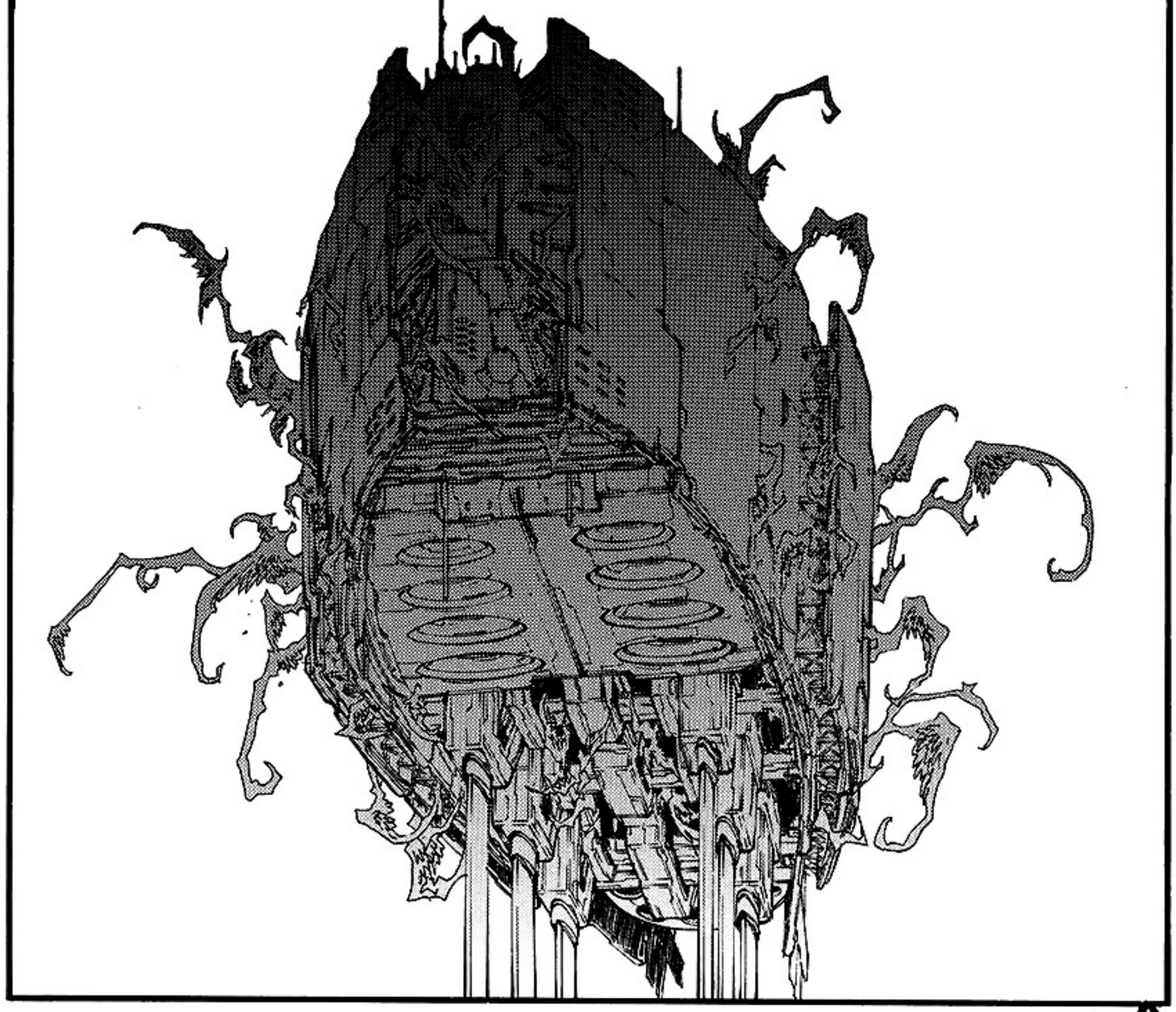

...A DREAM?



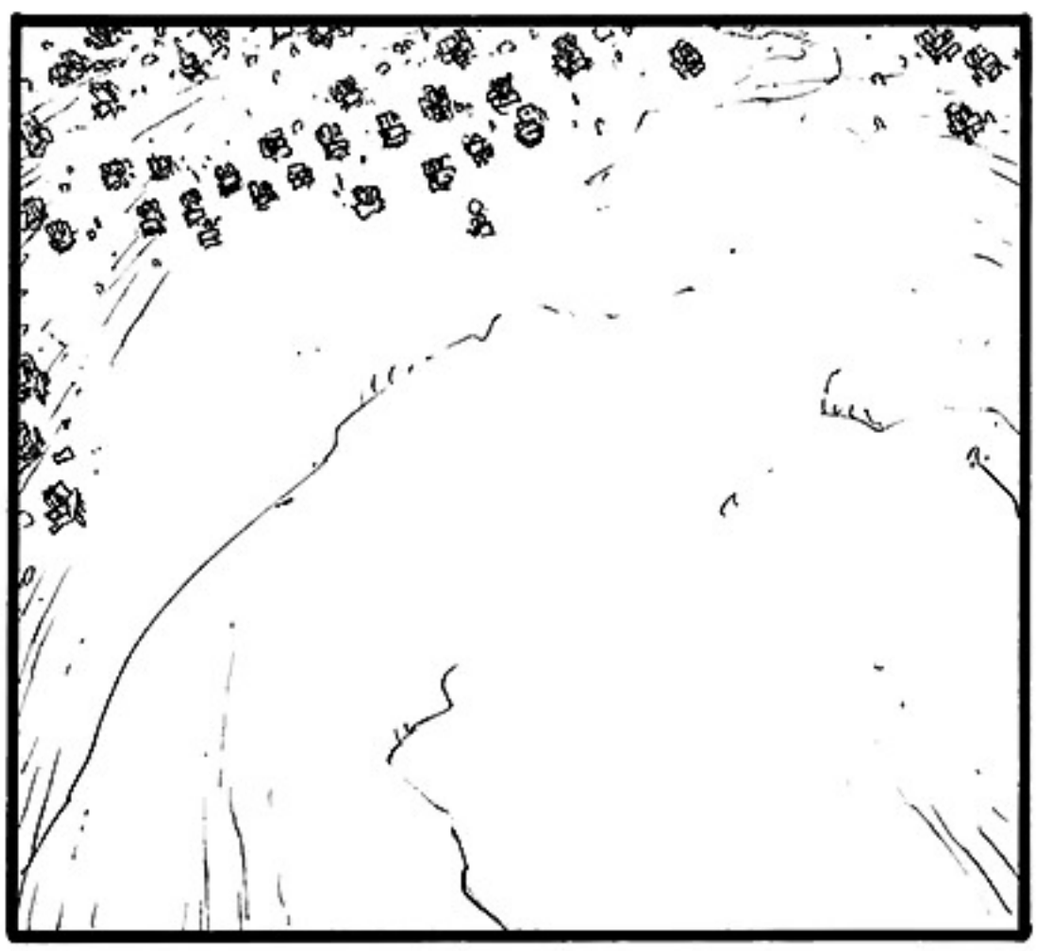




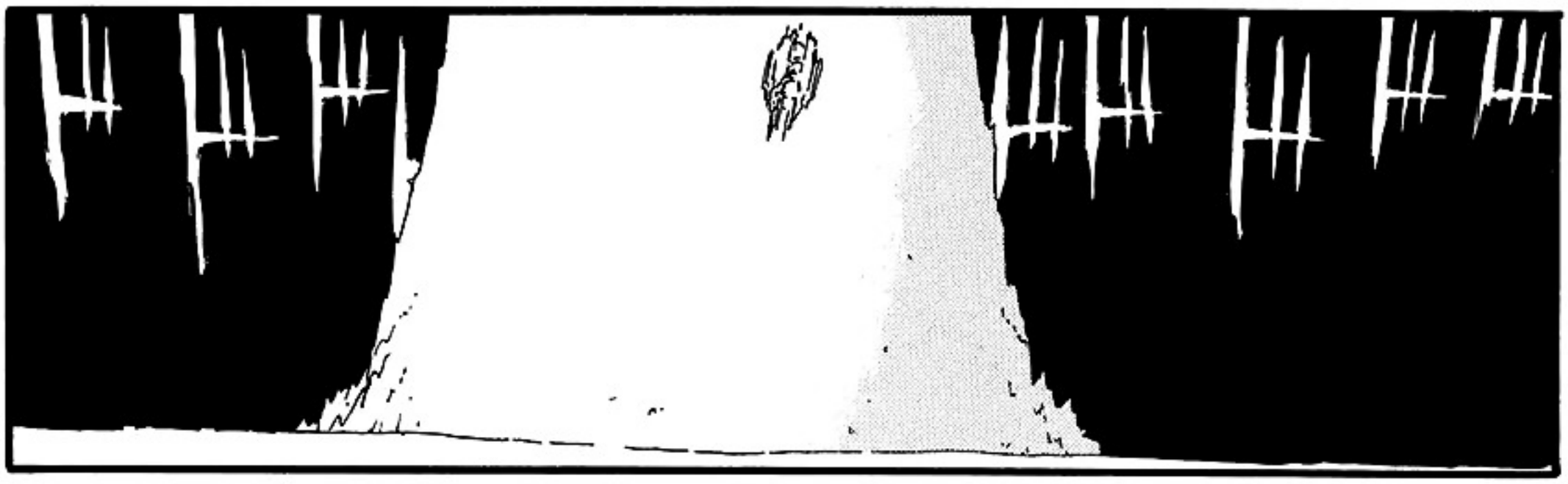

THAT'S...
THAT'S IT...

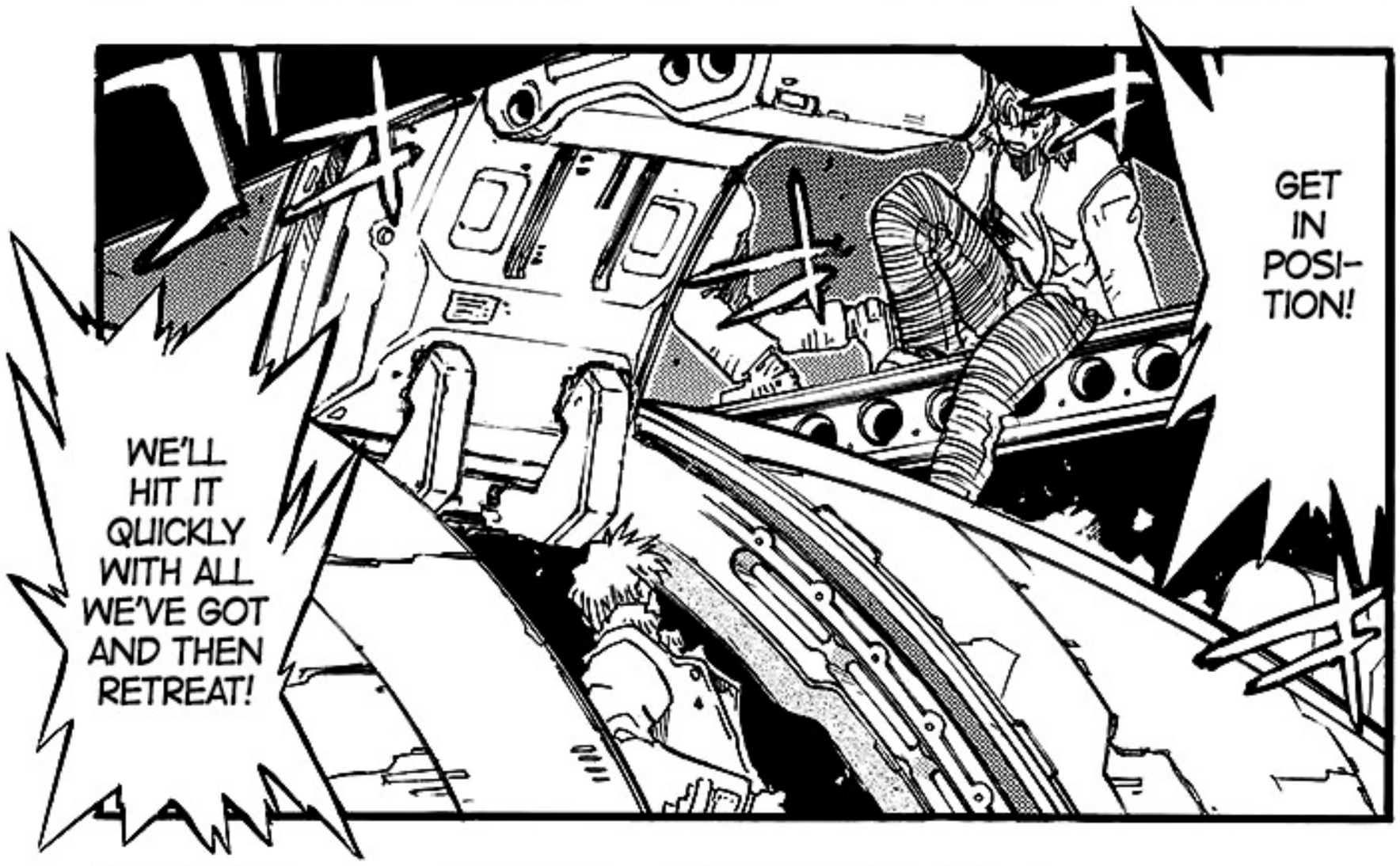


WE'VE GOT PLACES TO BE...
...BUT LET'S DO THEM A FAVOR AND *LAY THEM TO WASTE.*

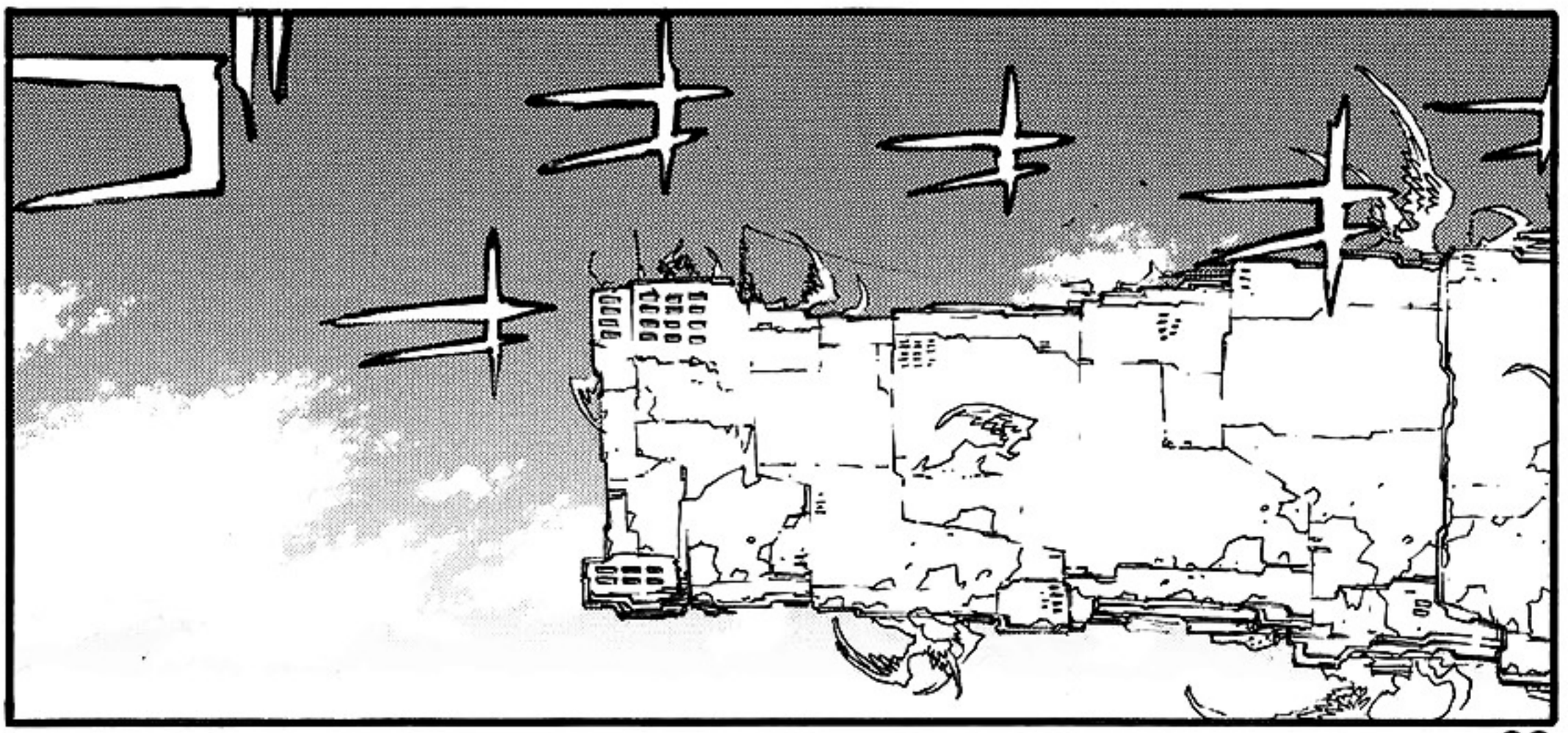


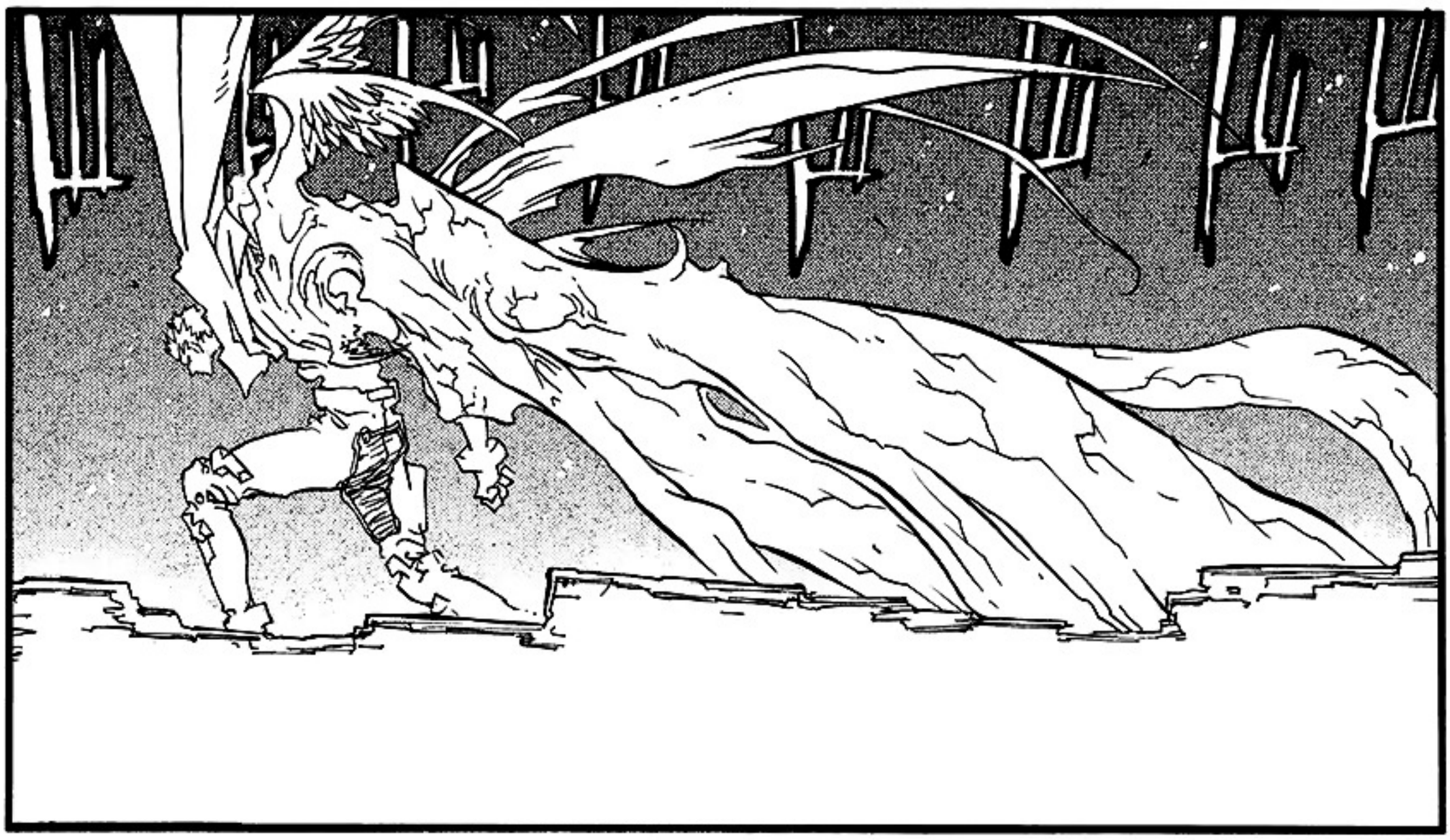
WE'RE TRYING! CAN'T SEE A DAMN THING IN THESE CLOUDS!
WE'RE GETTING CLOSE... DO YOU HAVE A VISUAL?
THERE IT IS!




WE'LL HIT IT QUICKLY WITH ALL WE'VE GOT AND THEN RETREAT!
GET IN POSI-TION!

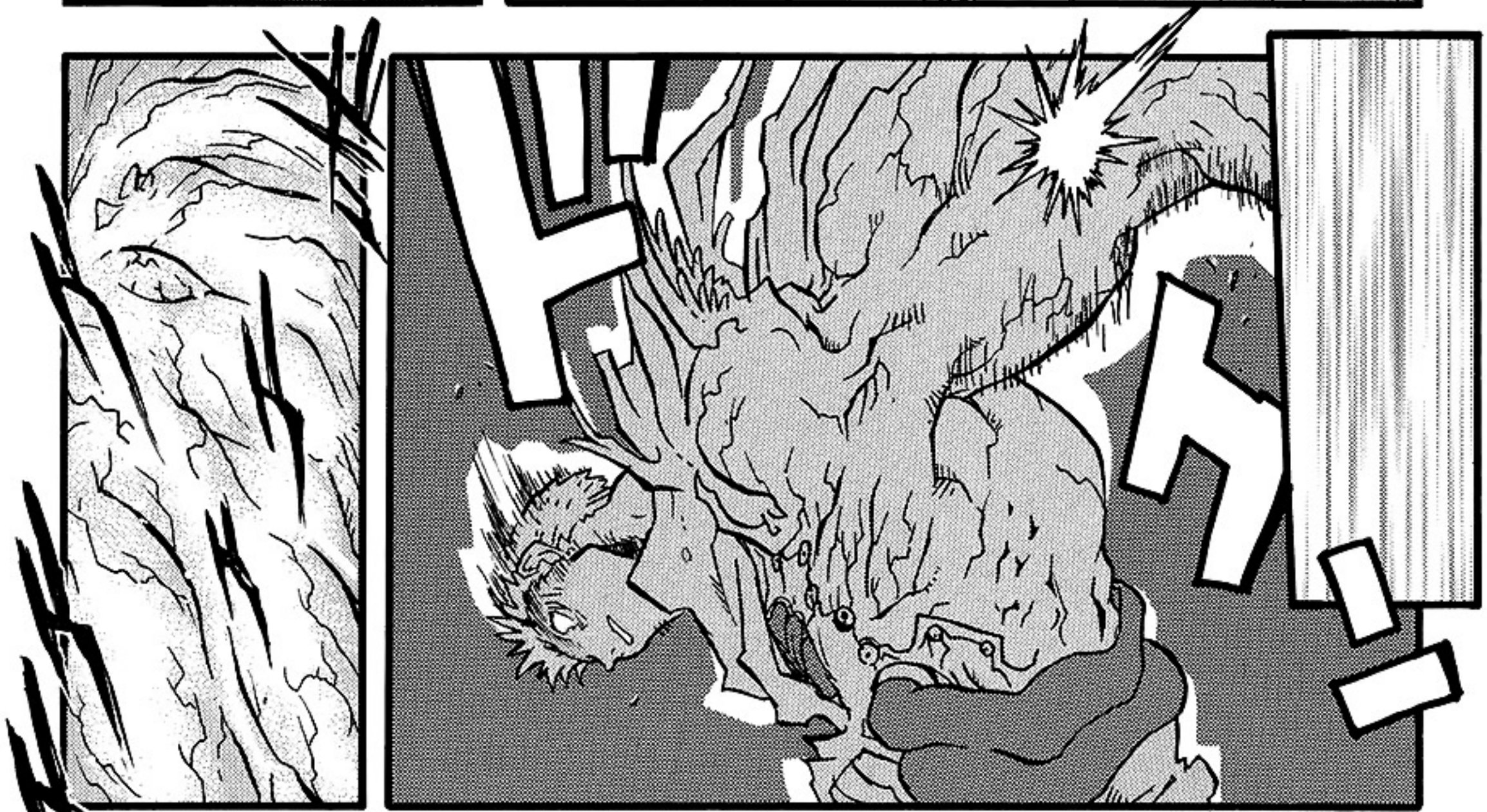
...
...



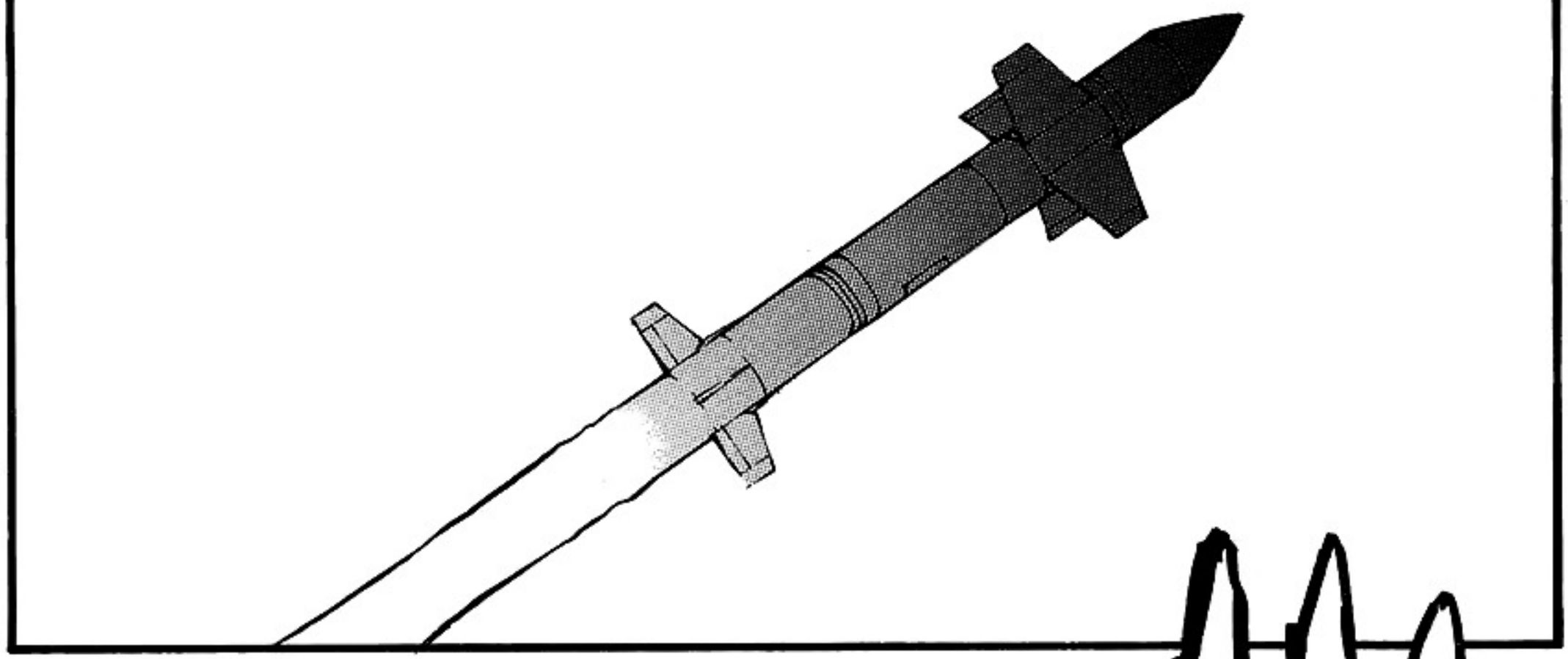


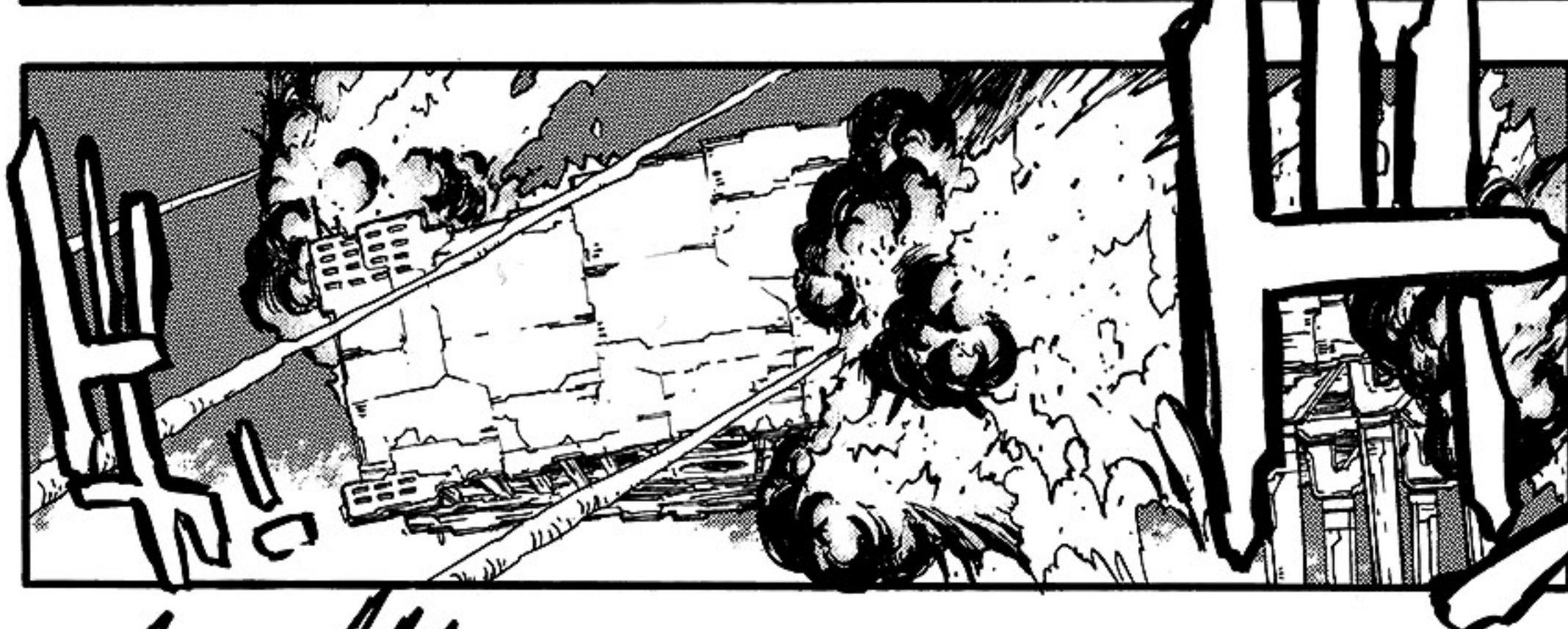
HA-

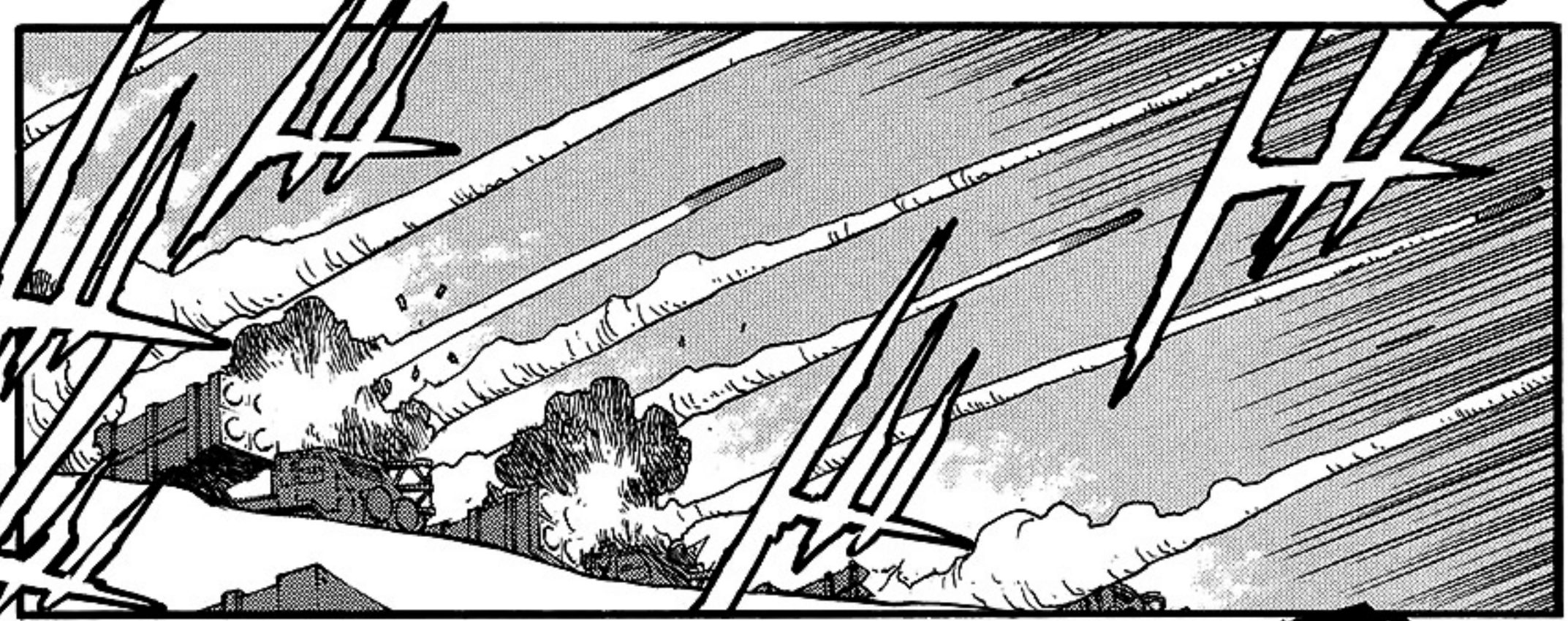
HA HA HA HA HA HA
HEH HEH HEH HEH

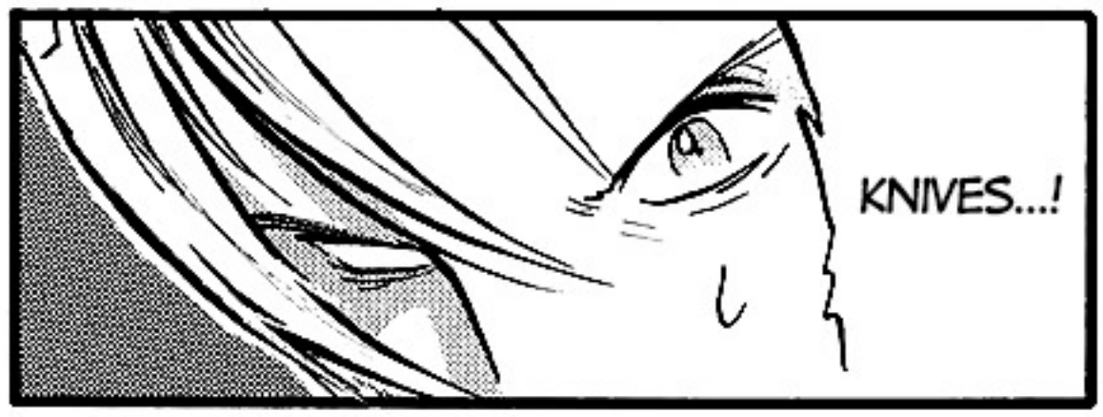

ドゴ!

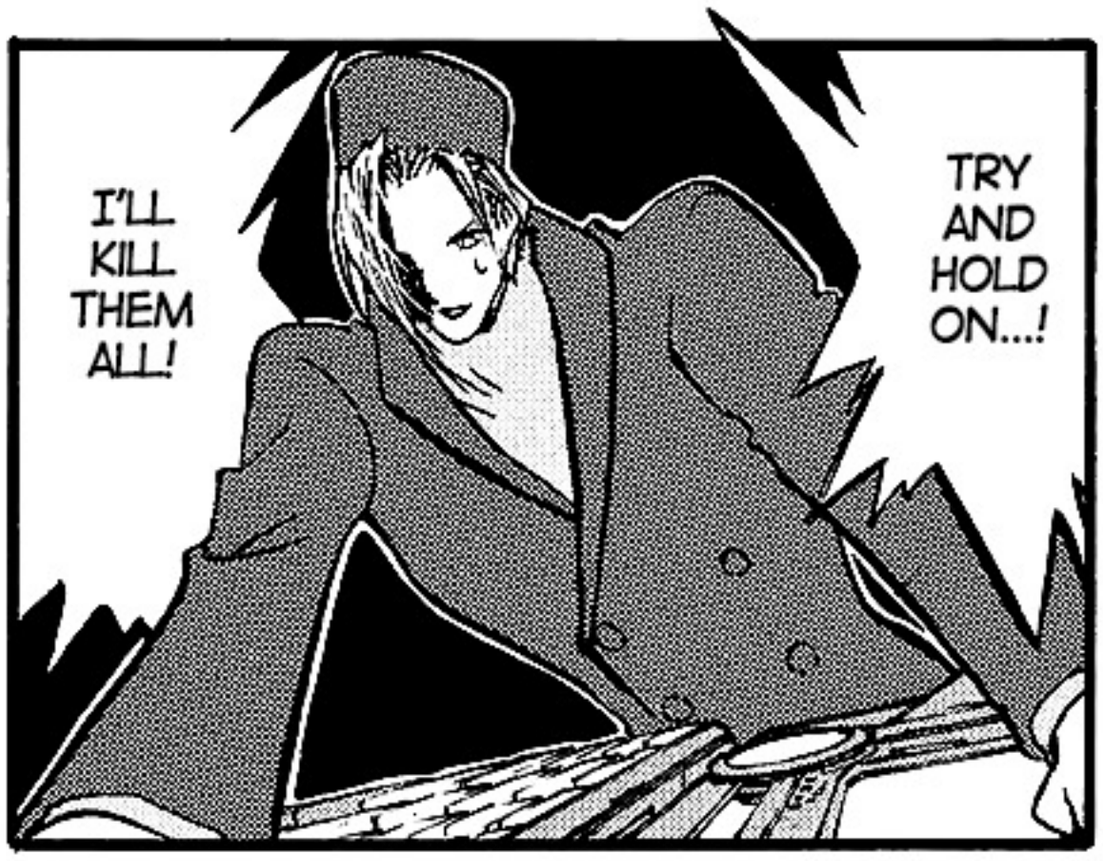
KNIVES!
AAAAAAH!
GA AH!
HA...
...

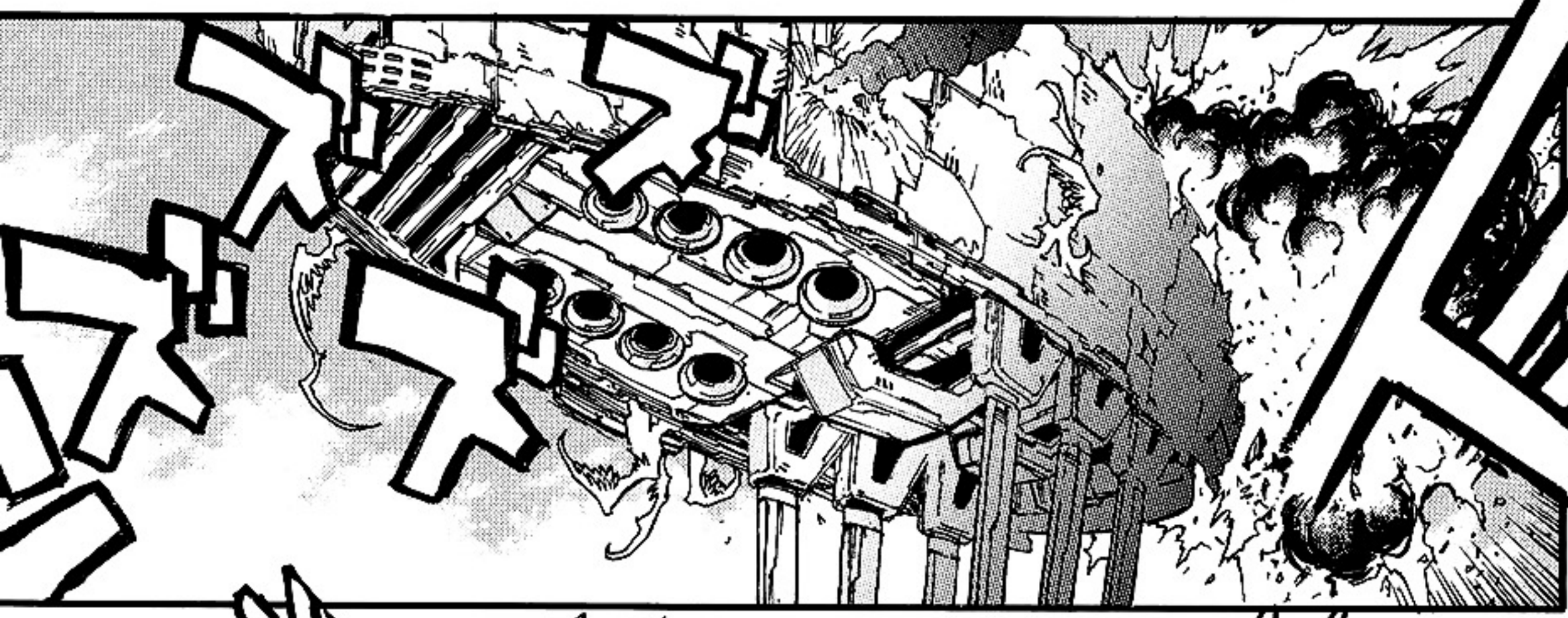


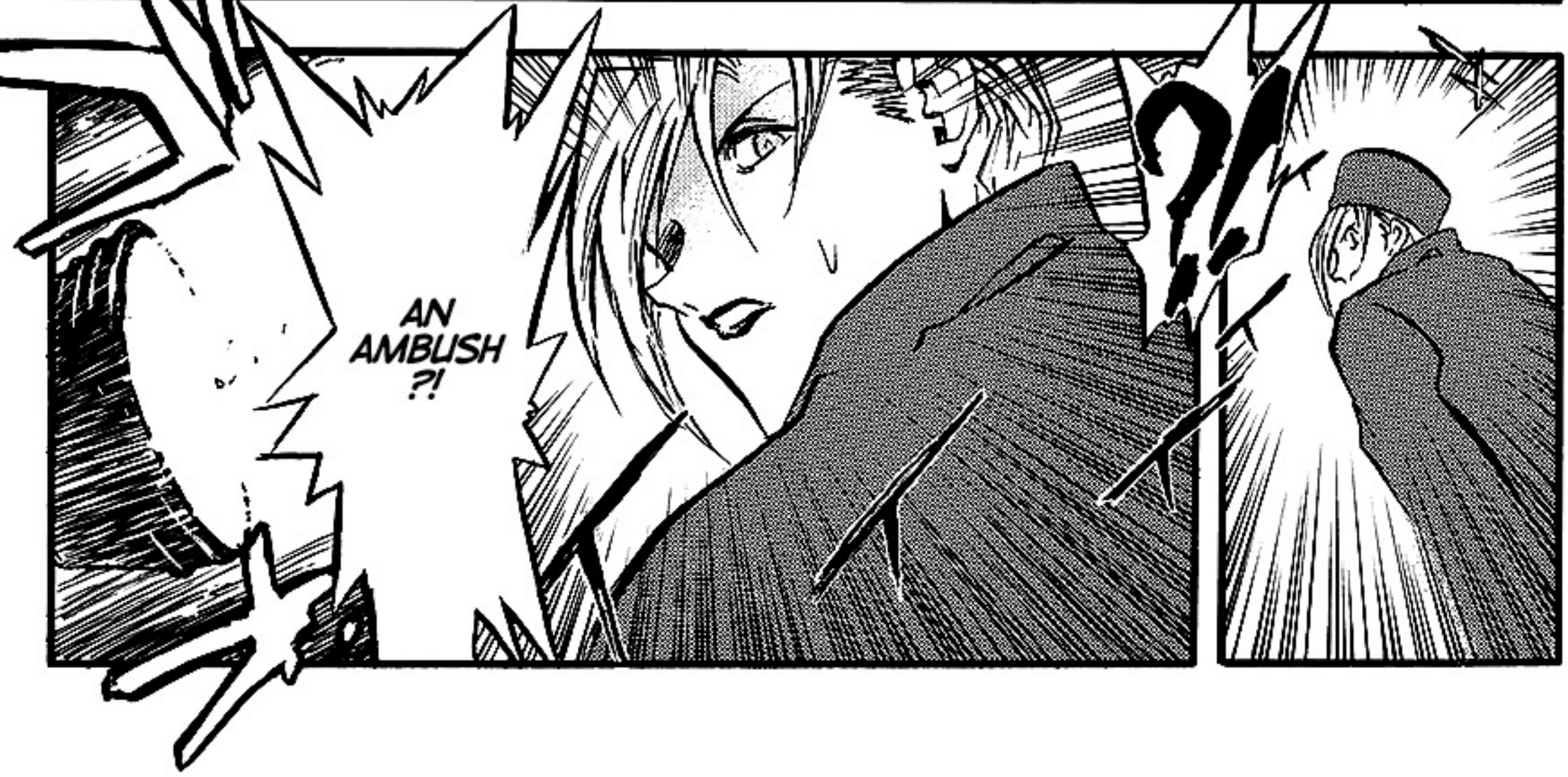





KNIVES...!


I'LL KILL THEM ALL!
TRY AND HOLD ON...!




AN AMBUSH ?!

HAAAW!

YEEE...

NO, NOT QUITE!

DID WE GET IT?!

IT'LL TAKE MORE TO SHOOT IT OUT OF THE SKY!

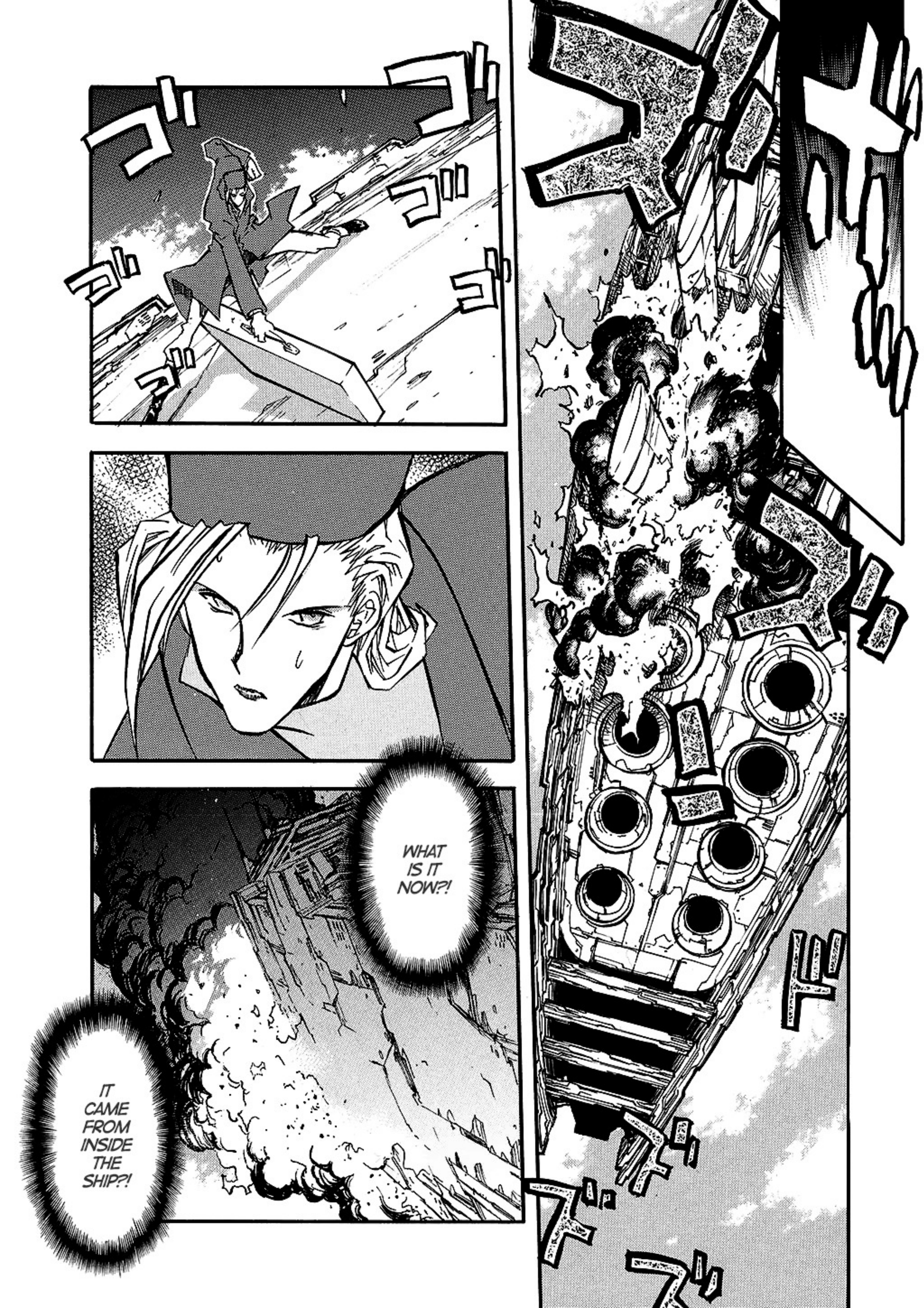
I'M GOING IN FOR ANOTHER HIT!

LET'S GO!

...
...

SOR-RY.

NO STOP! WAIT!
TURN BACK!
...FEEL LIKE DYING IN A BLAZE OF GLORY?
HAH ...
ANY-ONE ELSE...
GA AH


ゴゴゴゴゴゴ
WHAT IS IT NOW?!
IT CAME FROM INSIDE THE SHIP?!
ドドド

NEEDLE-NOGGIN...

CAN YA HEAR ME?

NEEDLE-NOGGIN?

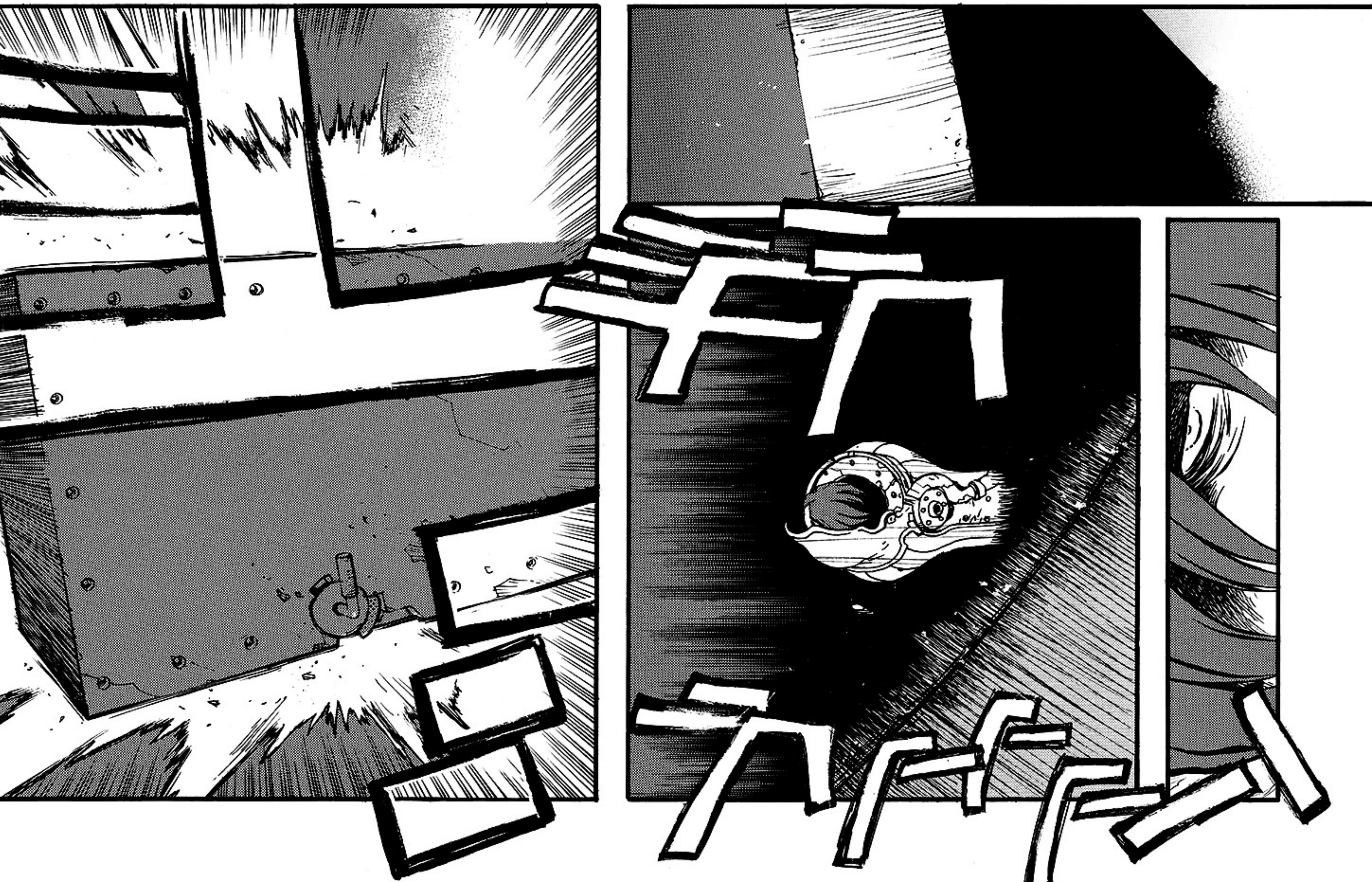
?!

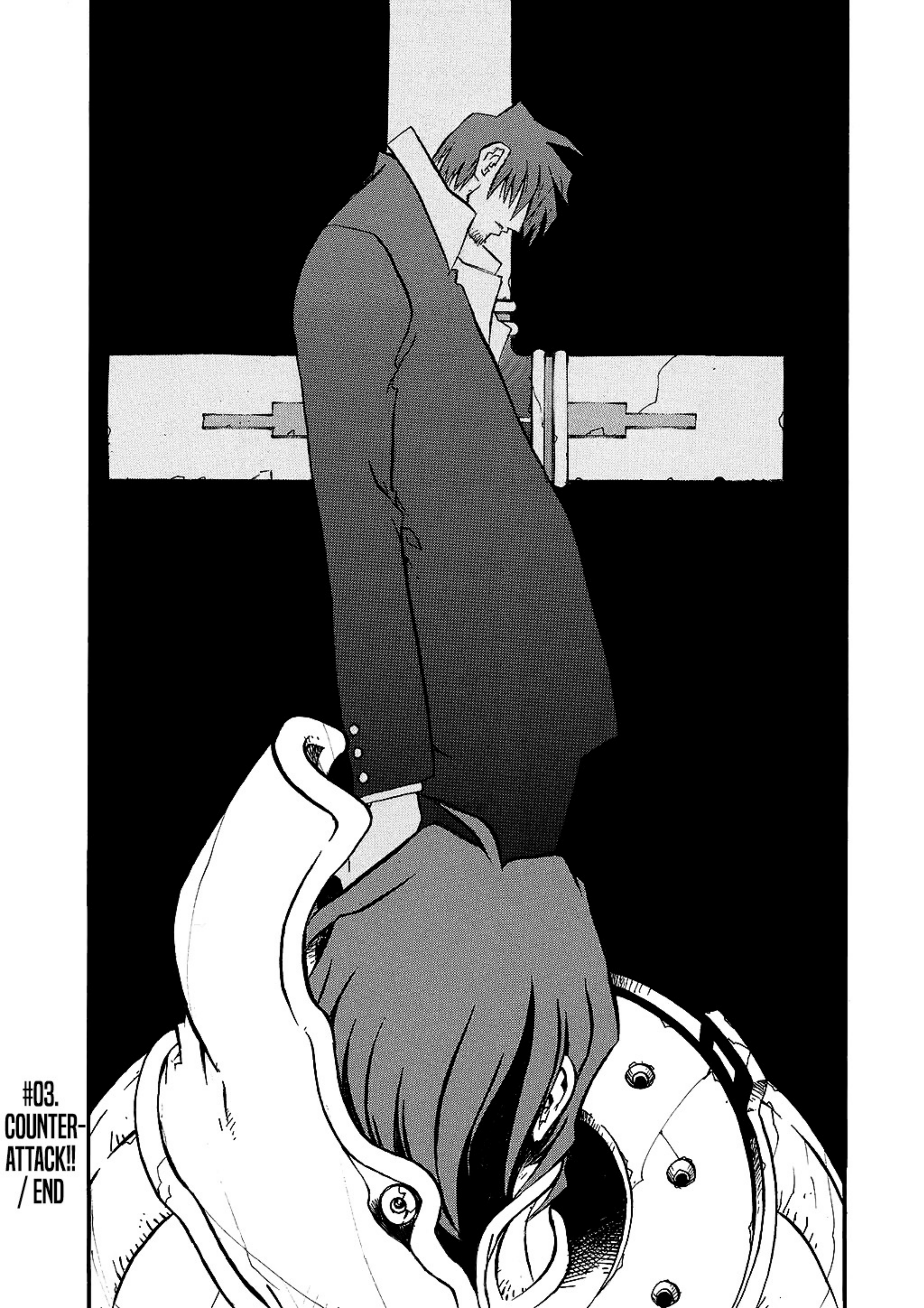
GET READY.

IT'S ABOUT TO GET LOUD.

SO...

...COVER YER EARS IF YA CAN.



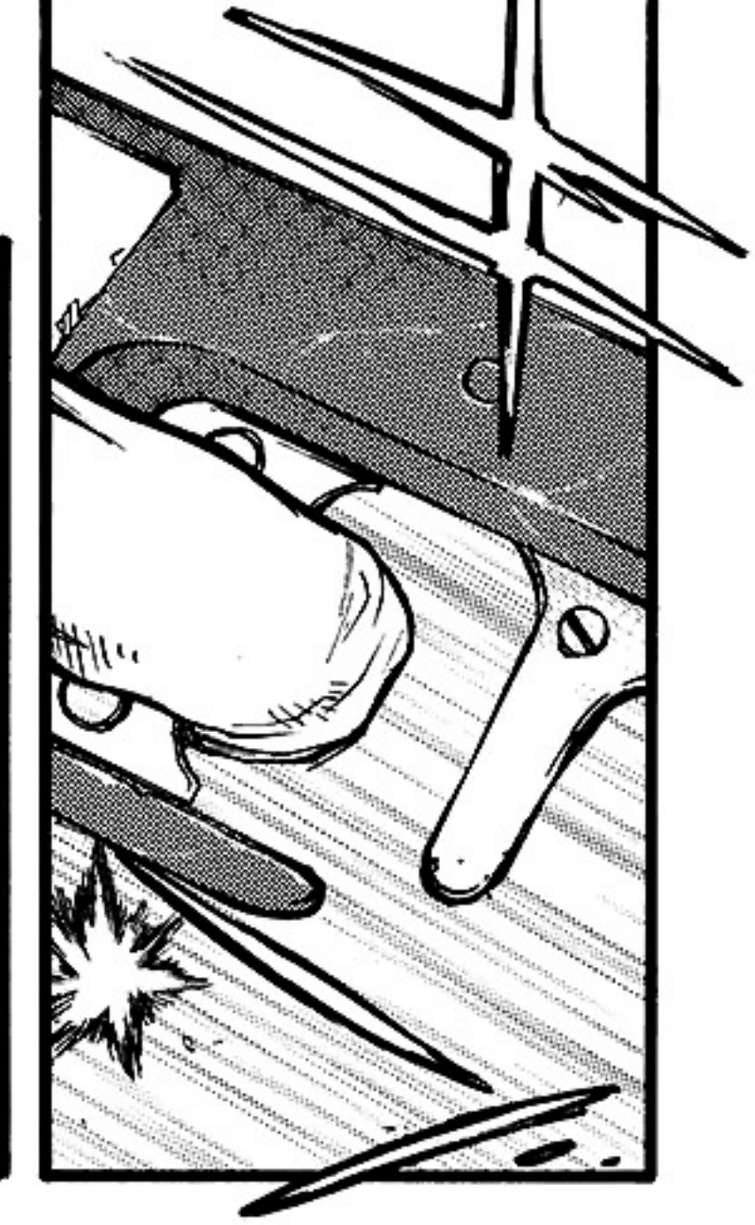


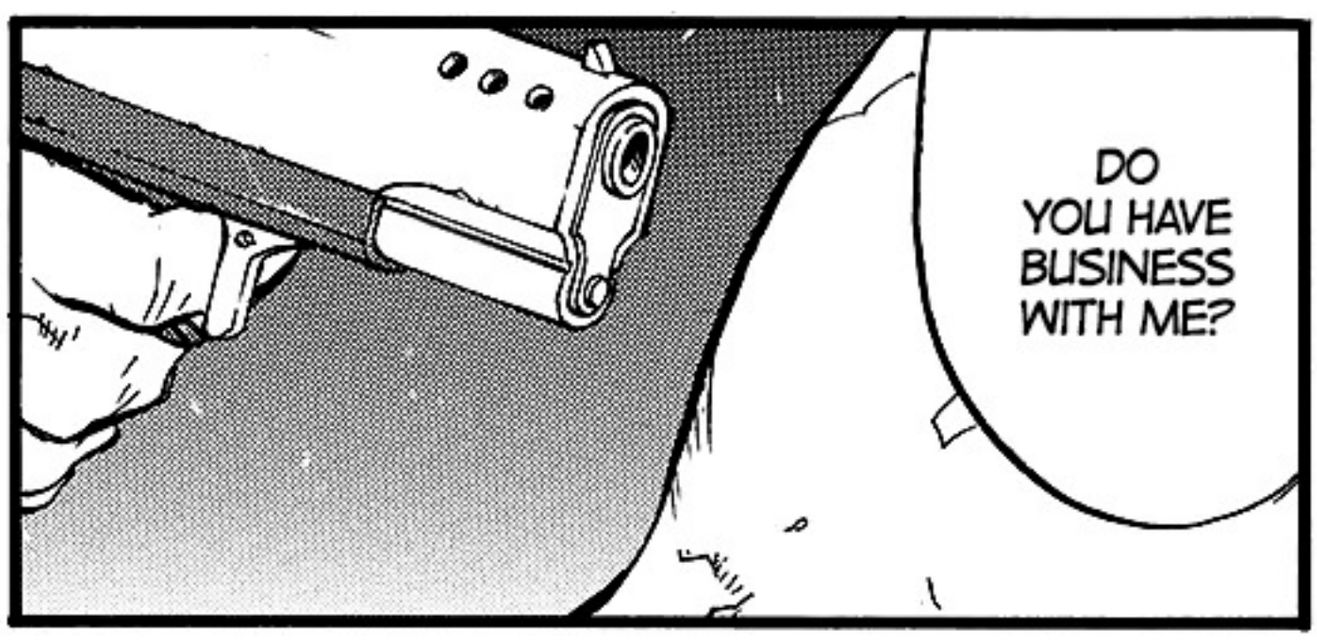
#03.
COUNTER-
ATTACK!!
/ END

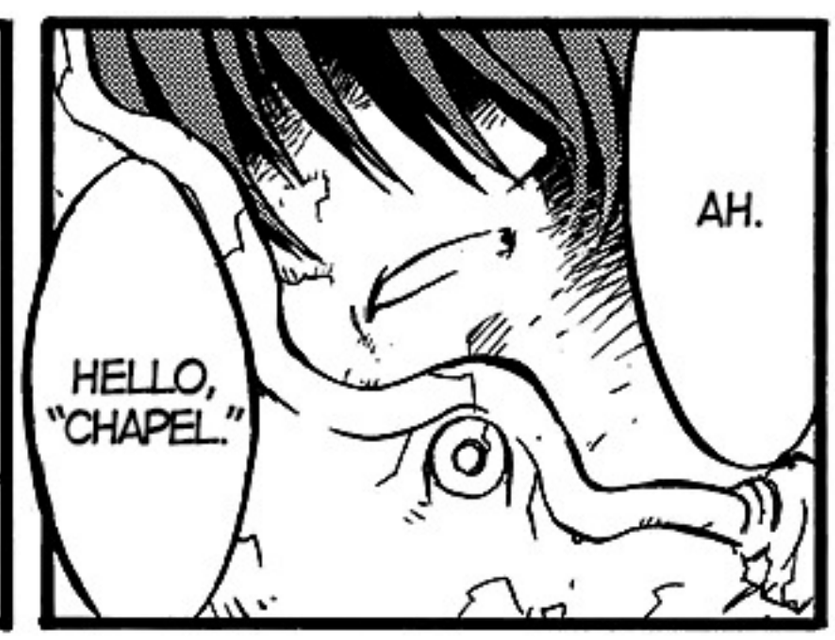
#04. ESCAPE

DON'T HESITATE.

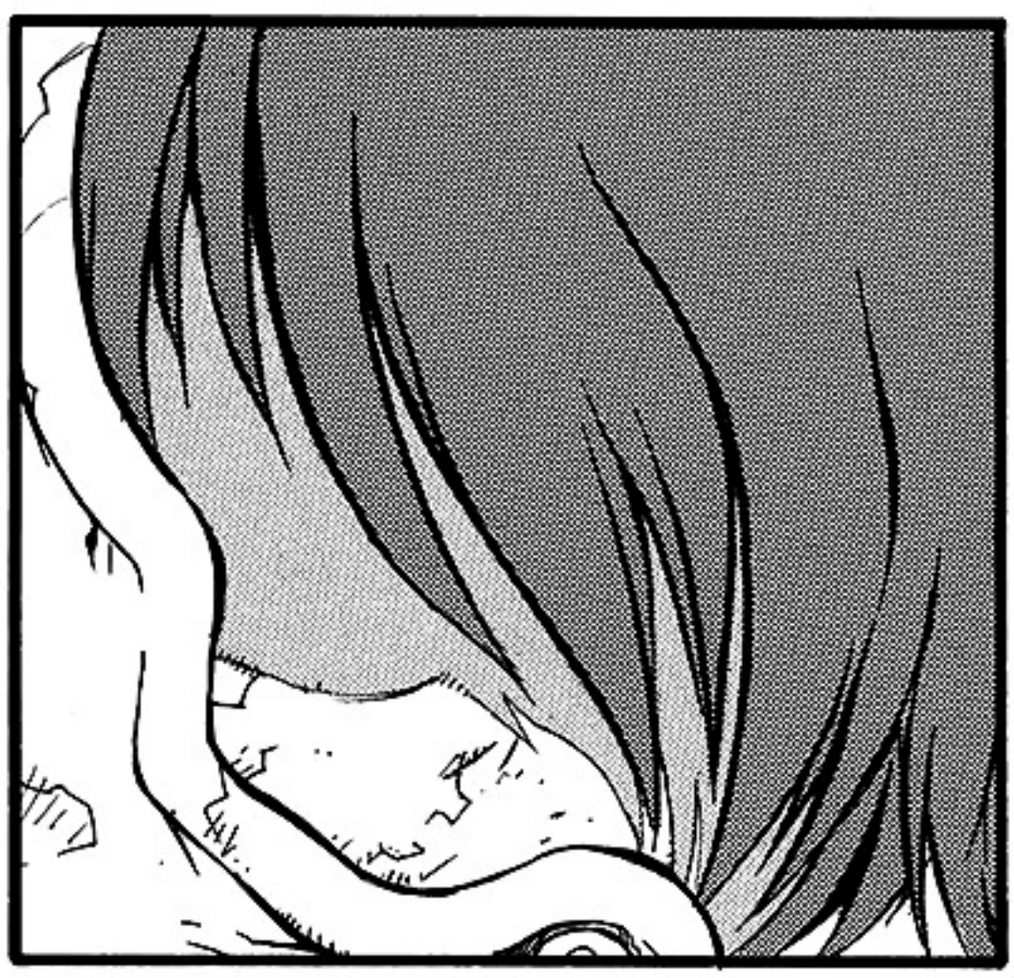
DO WHAT YA NEED TO DO...




DO YOU HAVE BUSINESS WITH ME?

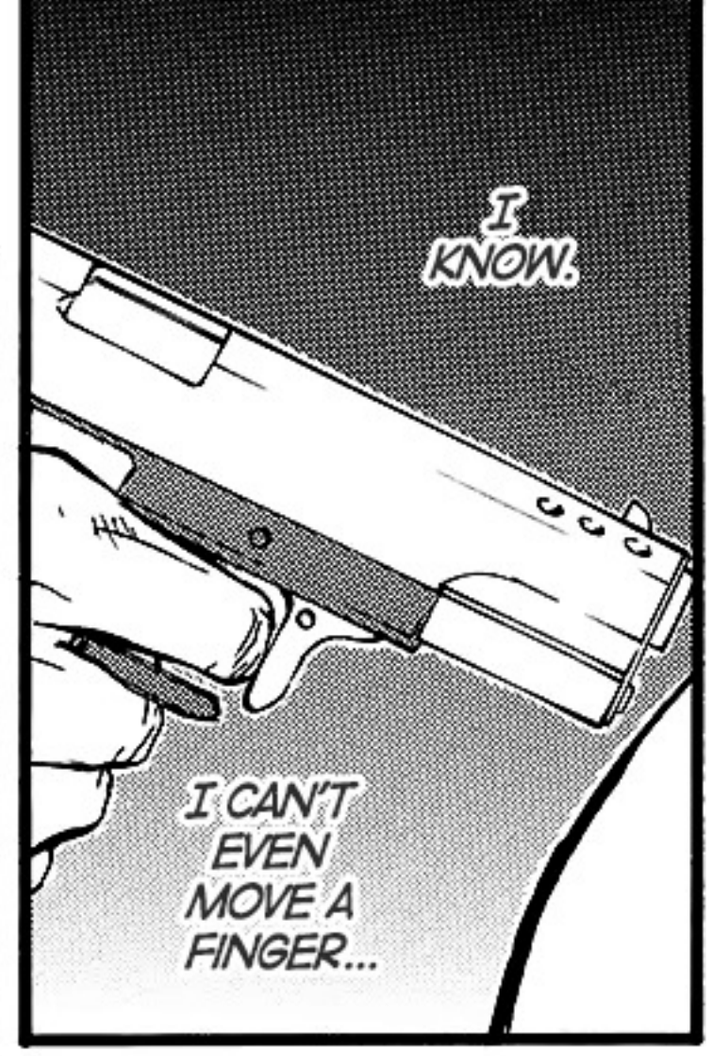

AH.
HELLO, "CHAPEL."

YOU'VE REACHED YER LIMIT, HUH?
LET'S PUT YA TO REST.

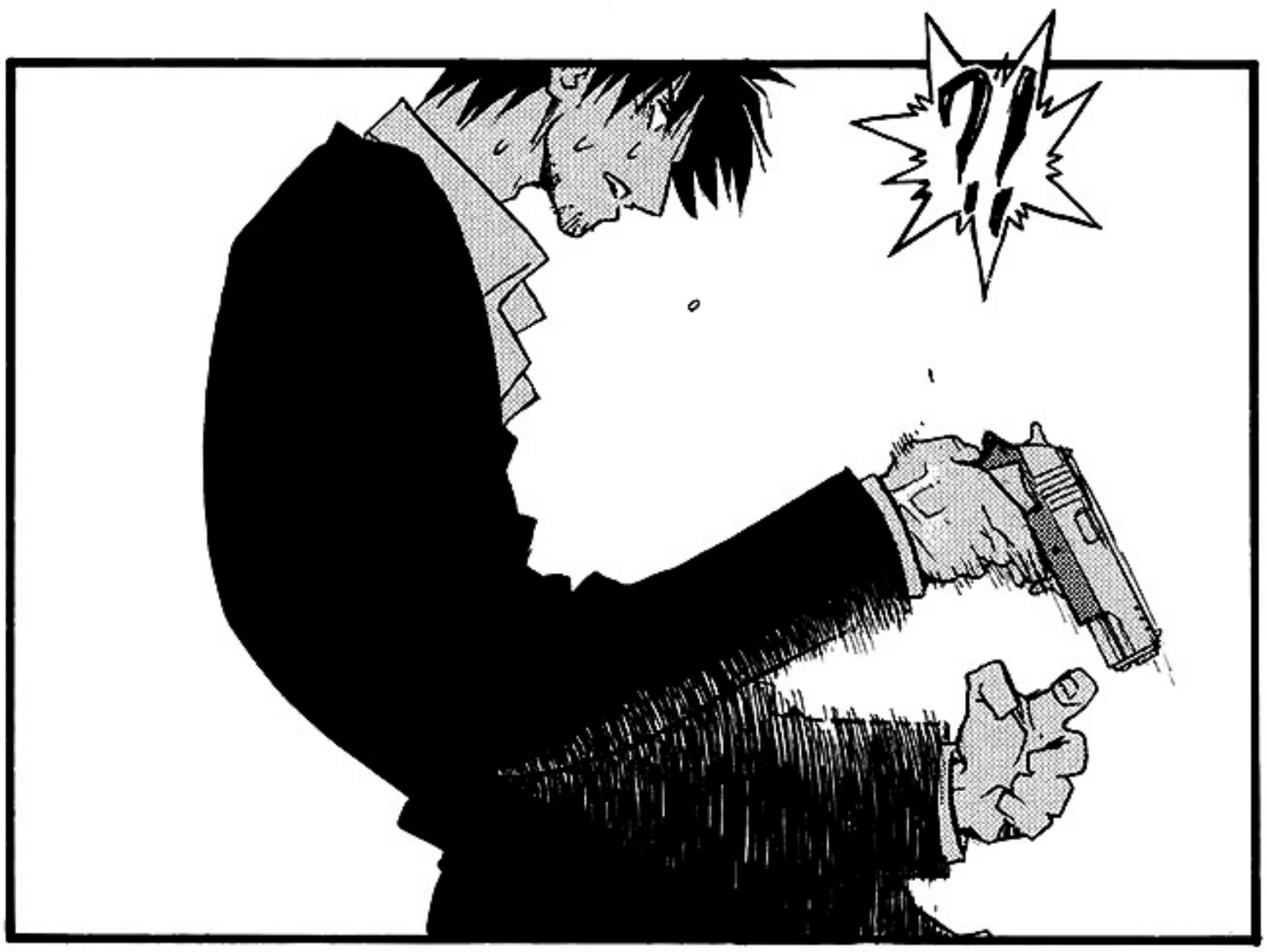


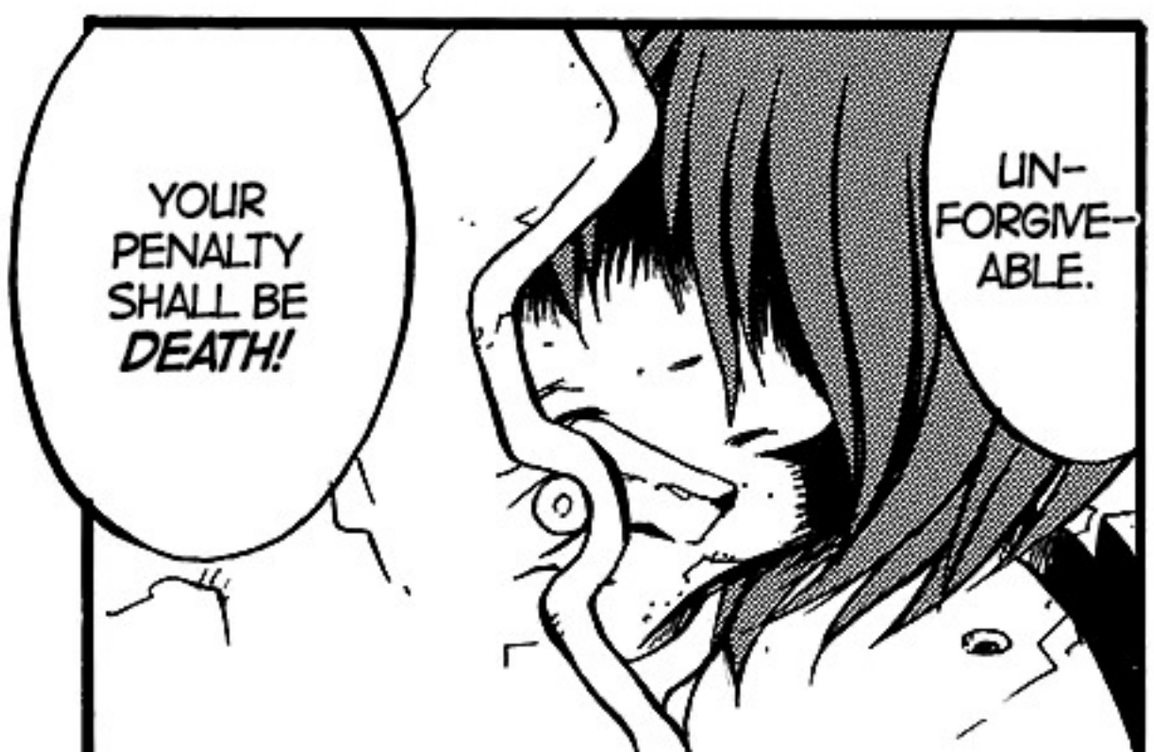
WOLF... WOOD...
HE... IS...

HE FOOLED ME.
SHIT!

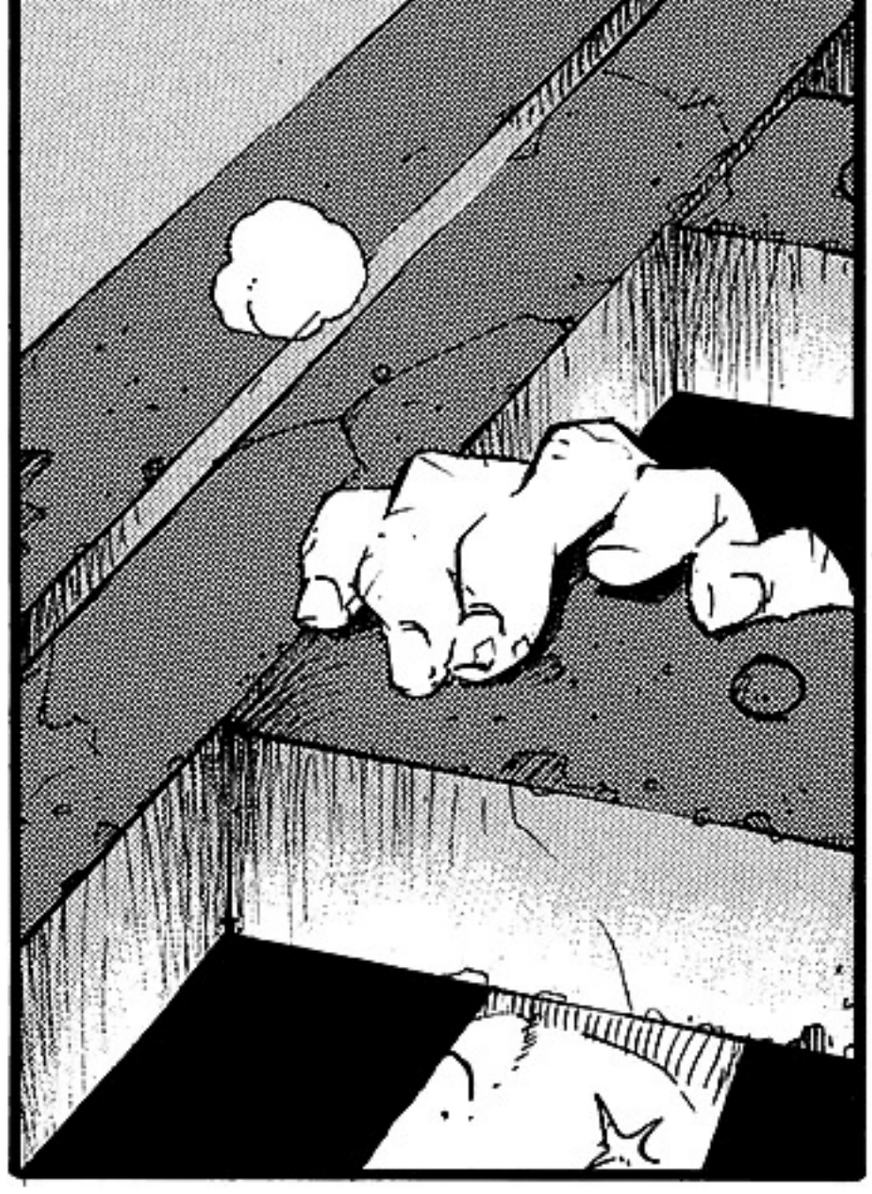

I KNOW.
I CAN'T EVEN MOVE A FINGER...

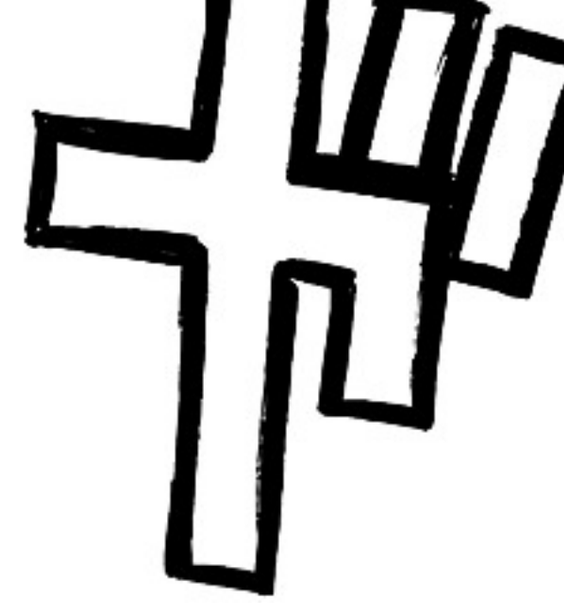
SUCH A FOOLISH MOVE...
TREASON...
...
...

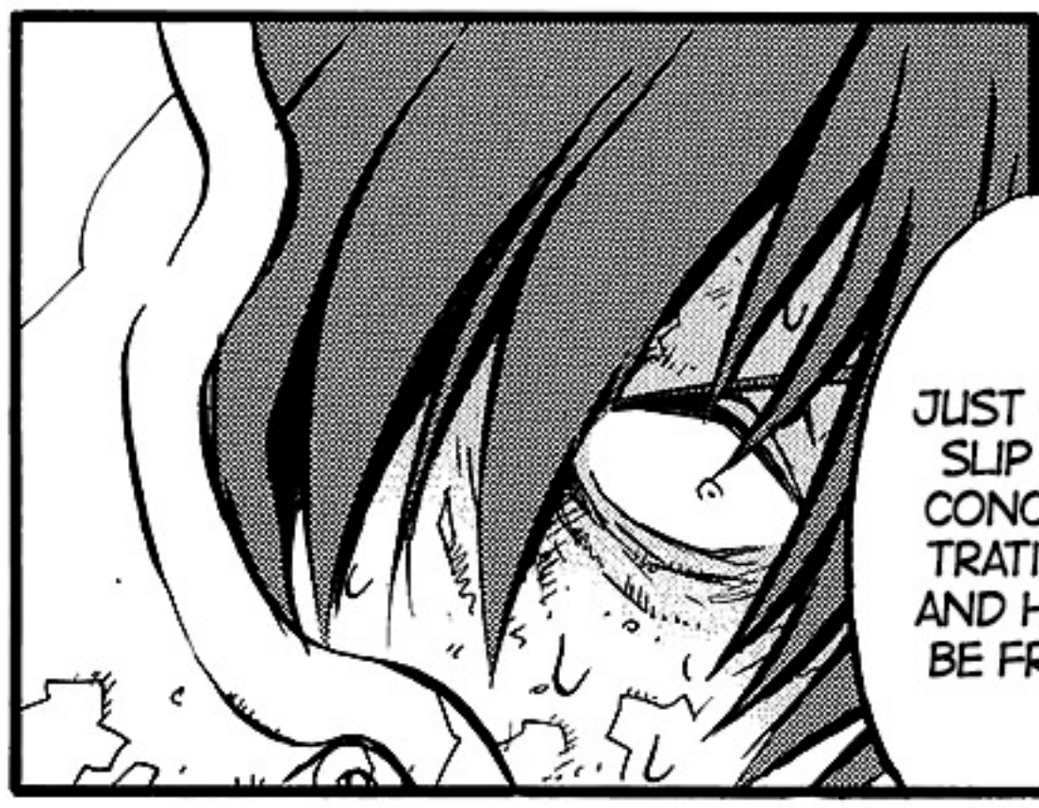

?!


YOUR PENALTY SHALL BE DEATH!
UN-FORGIVE-ABLE.

HNG!
...
...

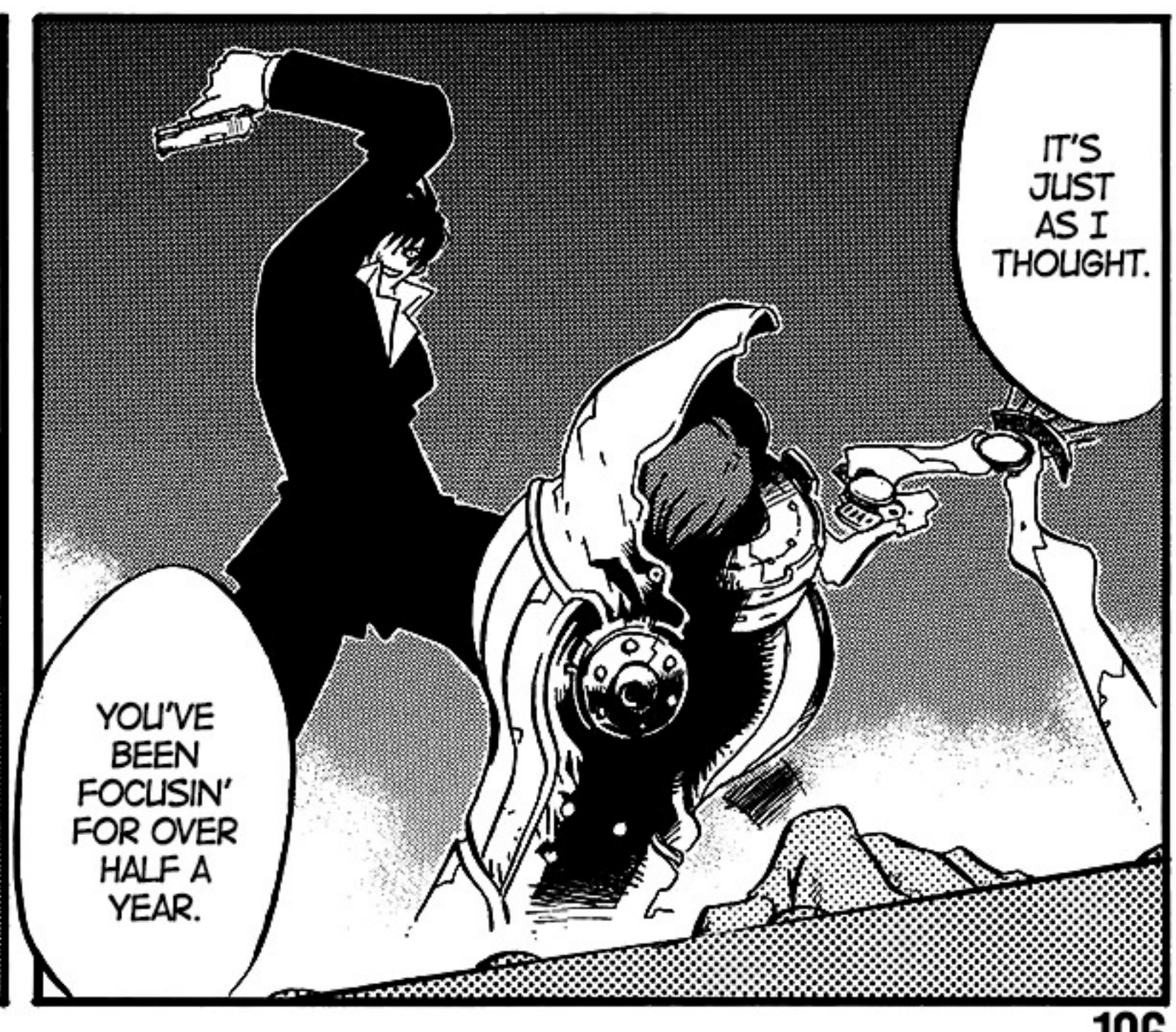





JUST ONE SLIP OF CONCEN-TRATION, AND HE'LL BE FREE.

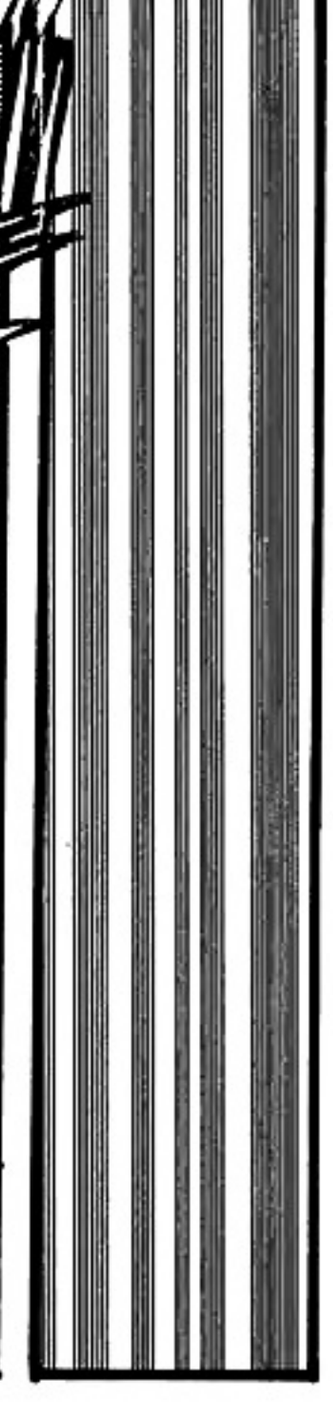
SEE THAT?

YER A LOT WEAKER NOW.
WHICH MEANS YER IN TROU-BLE.

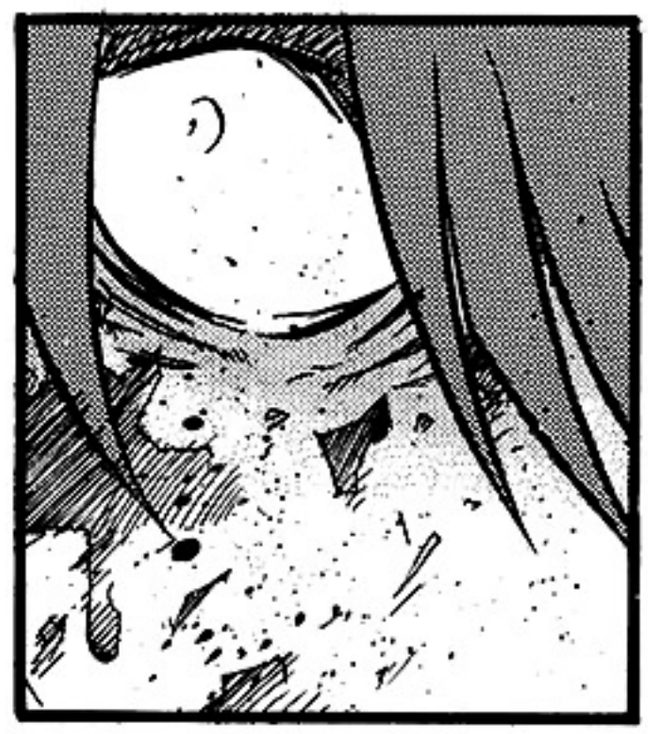

IT'S JUST AS I THOUGHT.
YOU'VE BEEN FOCUSIN' FOR OVER HALF A YEAR.

AND NOW, YOU HAVE SHORTENED YOUR OWN LIFESPAN.
FOOL, THAT'S ALL THE TIME I NEEDED.
HNNNGH!
AAAH!
AH!
GAAAAA!

NOW!
NEEDLE-NOGGIN!

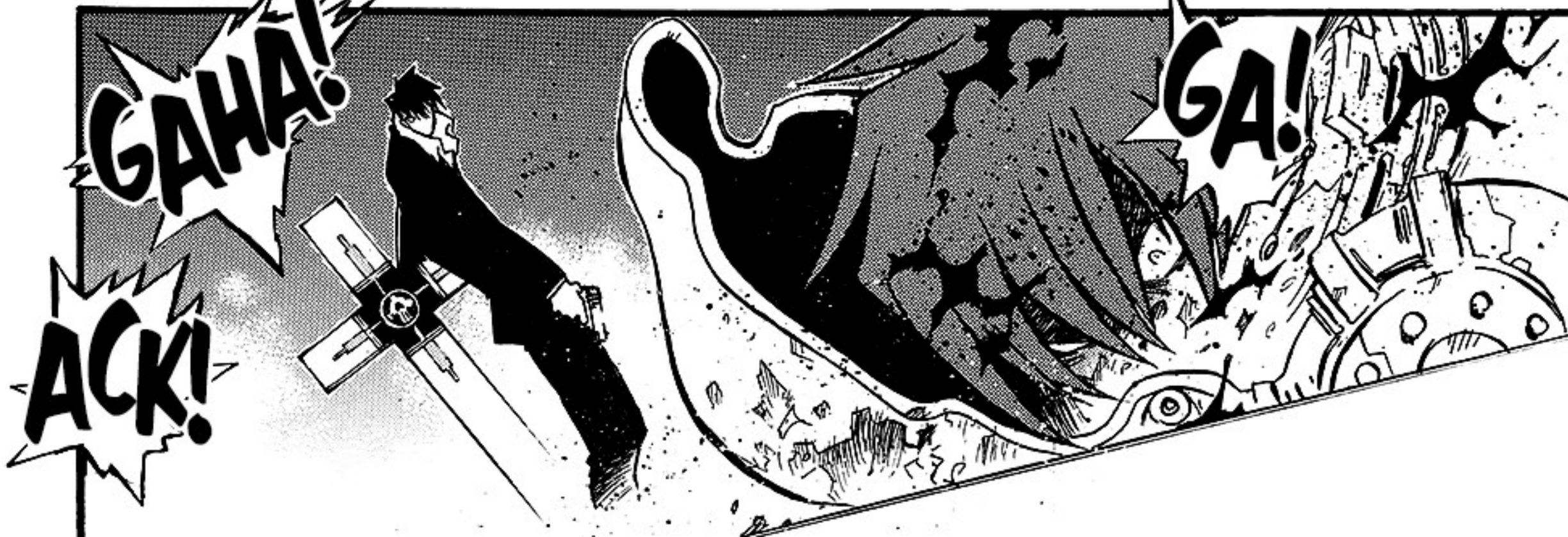


AAH
AAAAAAAAH!



GA AA AH!

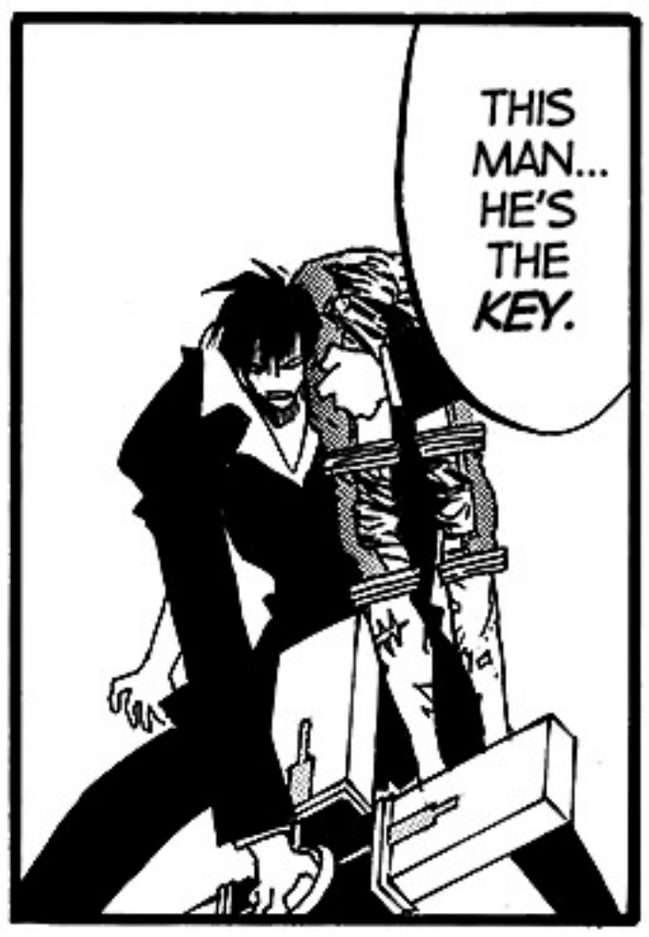
?!
I MISSED?! BUT HOW...

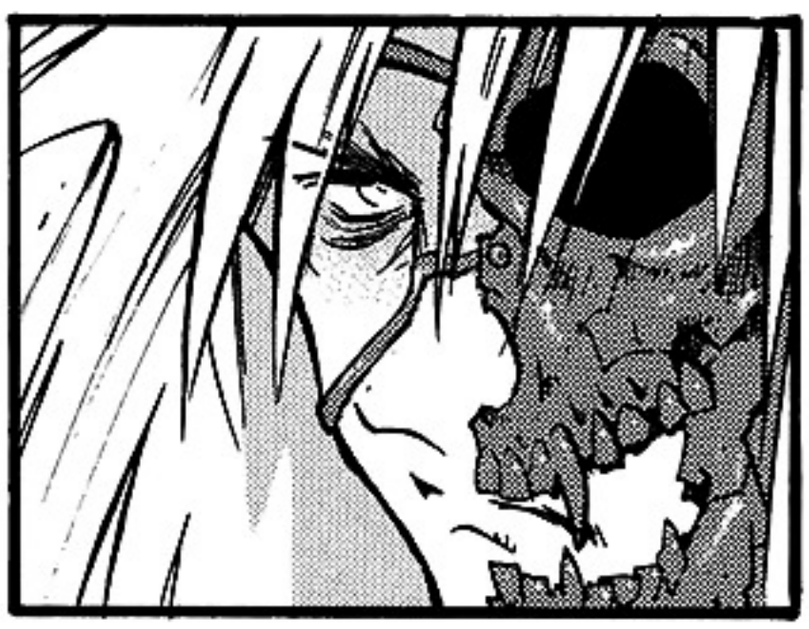

GAHA!
ACK!
GA!

GA AAA AAR GH!!
AA AA AA AA!

...
...

LIVIO...
GET OUTTA THE WAY!

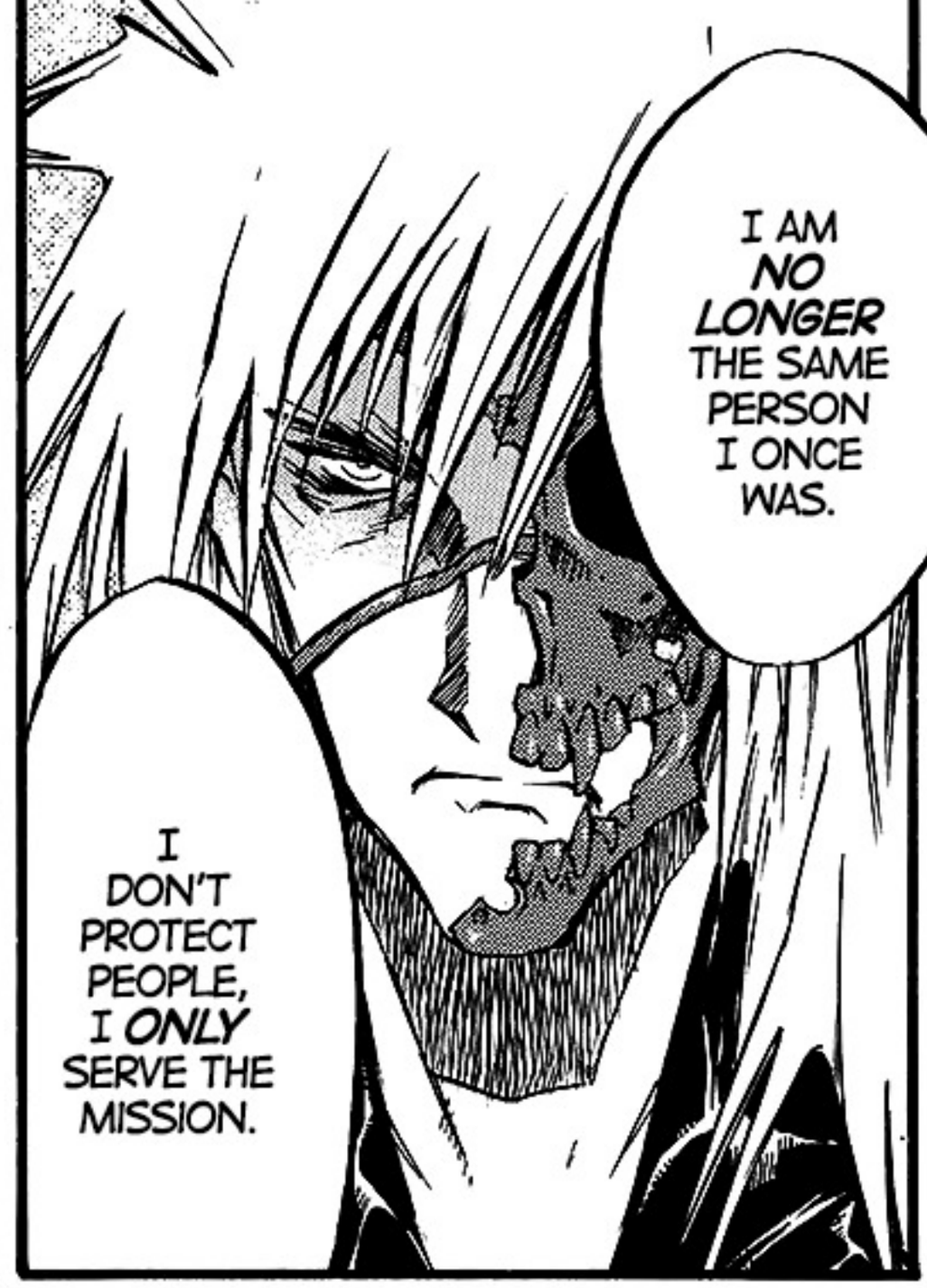

THIS MAN... HE'S THE KEY.

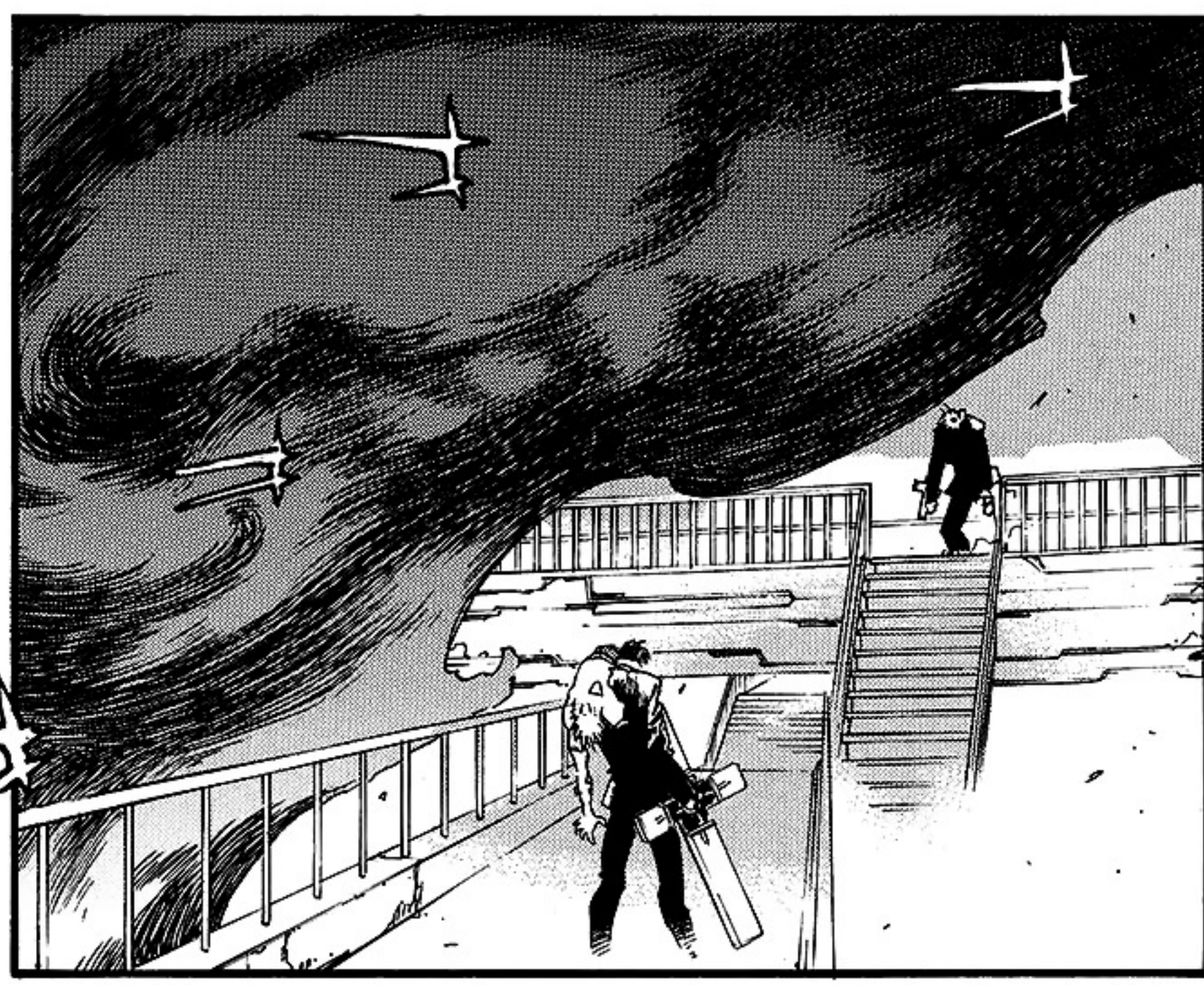


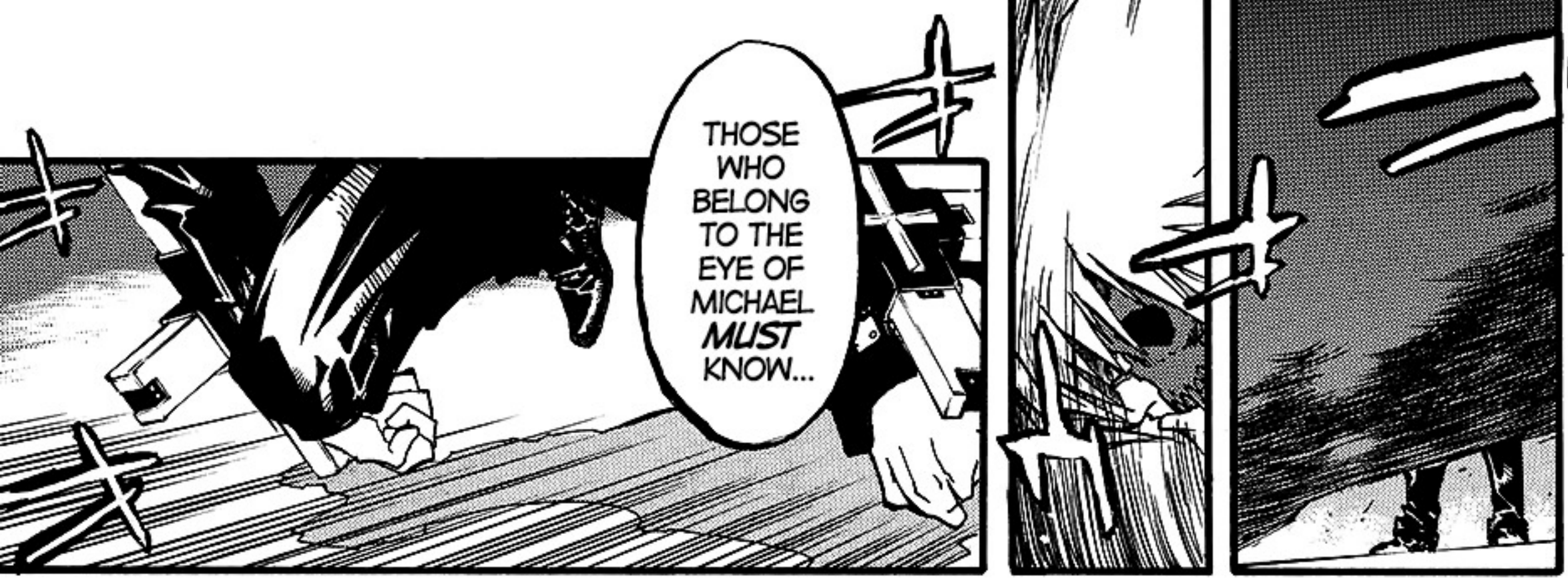
...IN CARCASSAS ANY MOMENT NOW.
THE ARK WILL ARRIVE...

AND THAT ORPHANAGE STILL TOOK US IN AND GAVE US A HOME!
WE HAD NOTHIN'!
HAVE YOU FOR-GOTTEN?!

AND BECOMING THE *PERFECT SERVANT.*
I ACCEPT THE *PERFECT* SURRENDER OF SELF.
ACHIEVING *PERFECT* REVERENCE.


I AM *NO LONGER* THE SAME PERSON I ONCE WAS.
I DON'T PROTECT PEOPLE, I *ONLY* SERVE THE MISSION.




THOSE WHO BELONG TO THE EYE OF MICHAEL *MUST* KNOW...

...THAT THEIR ENTIRE *EXISTENCE* IS BASED ON THIS DOCTRINE.

GA AH!

ドーン

ドーン

...
...

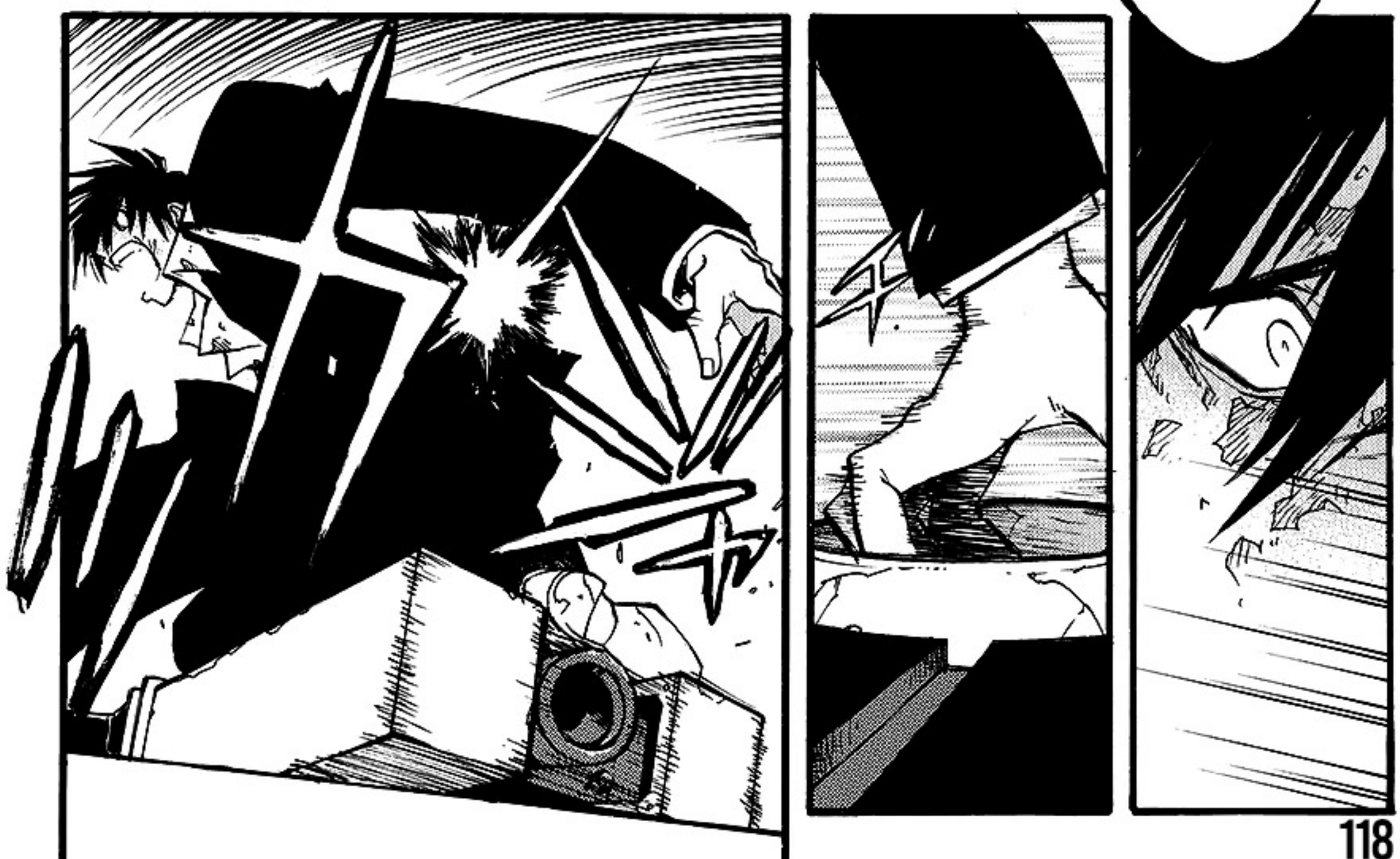
HA-

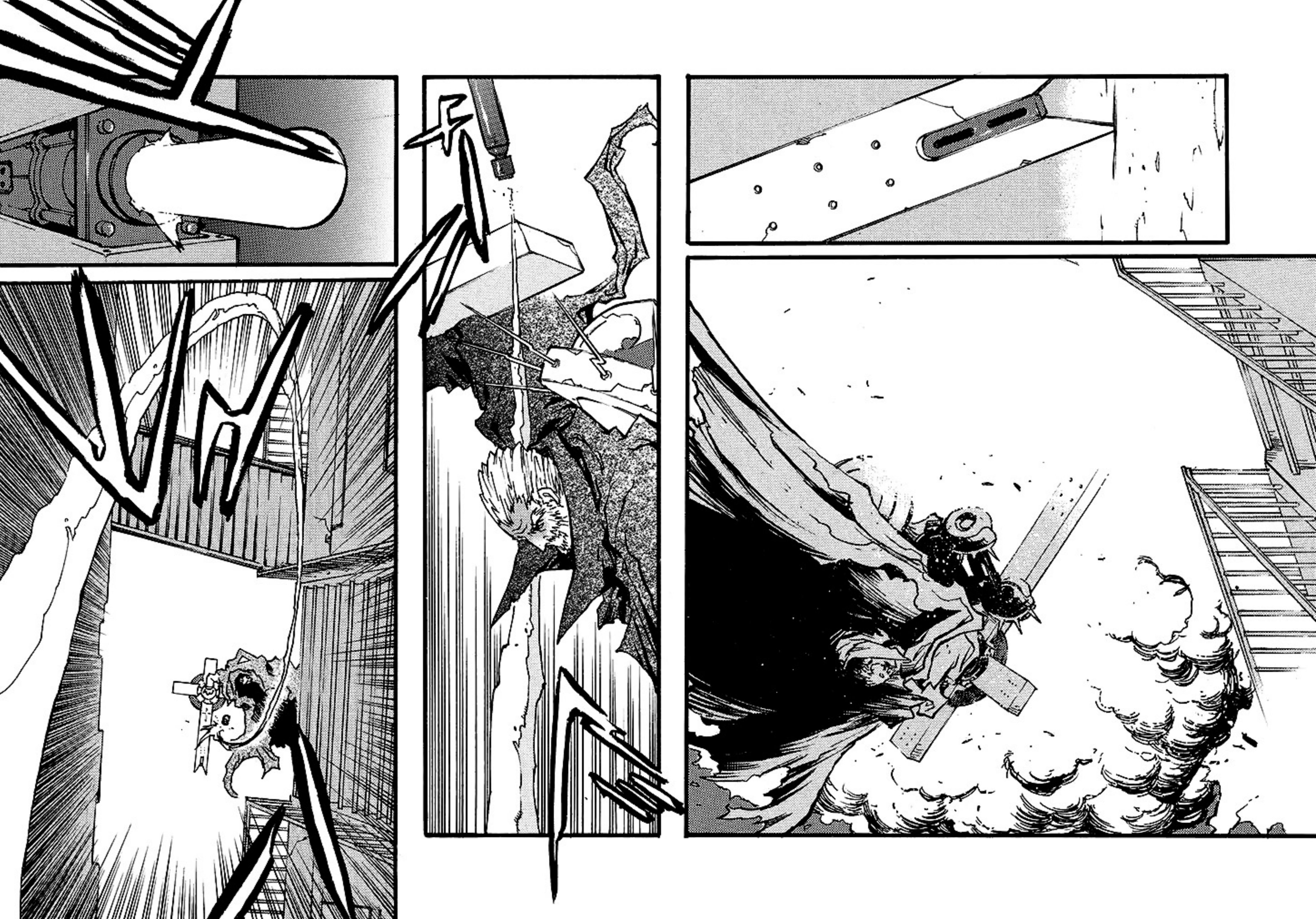
HA GA!

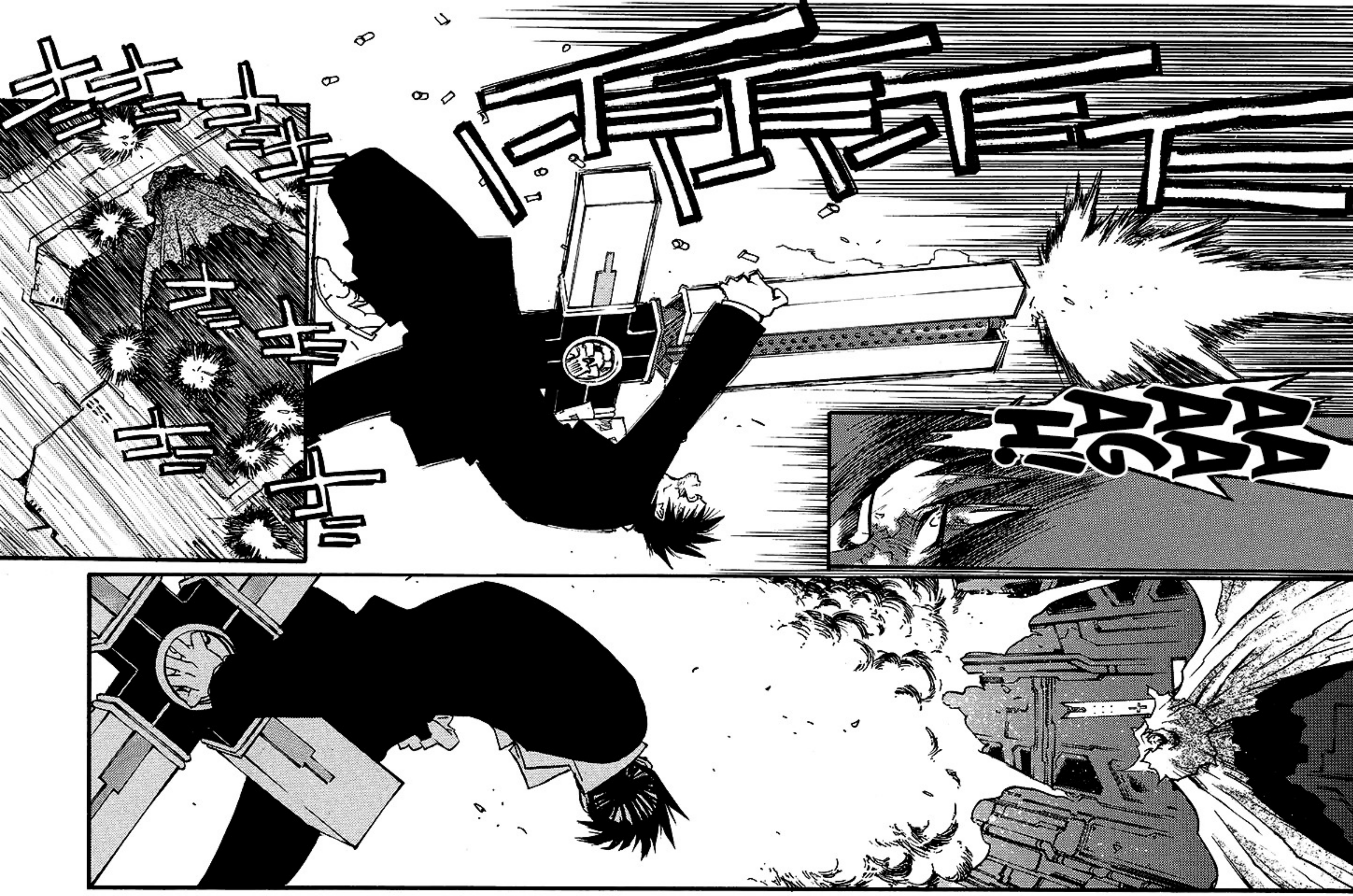
SHIT!

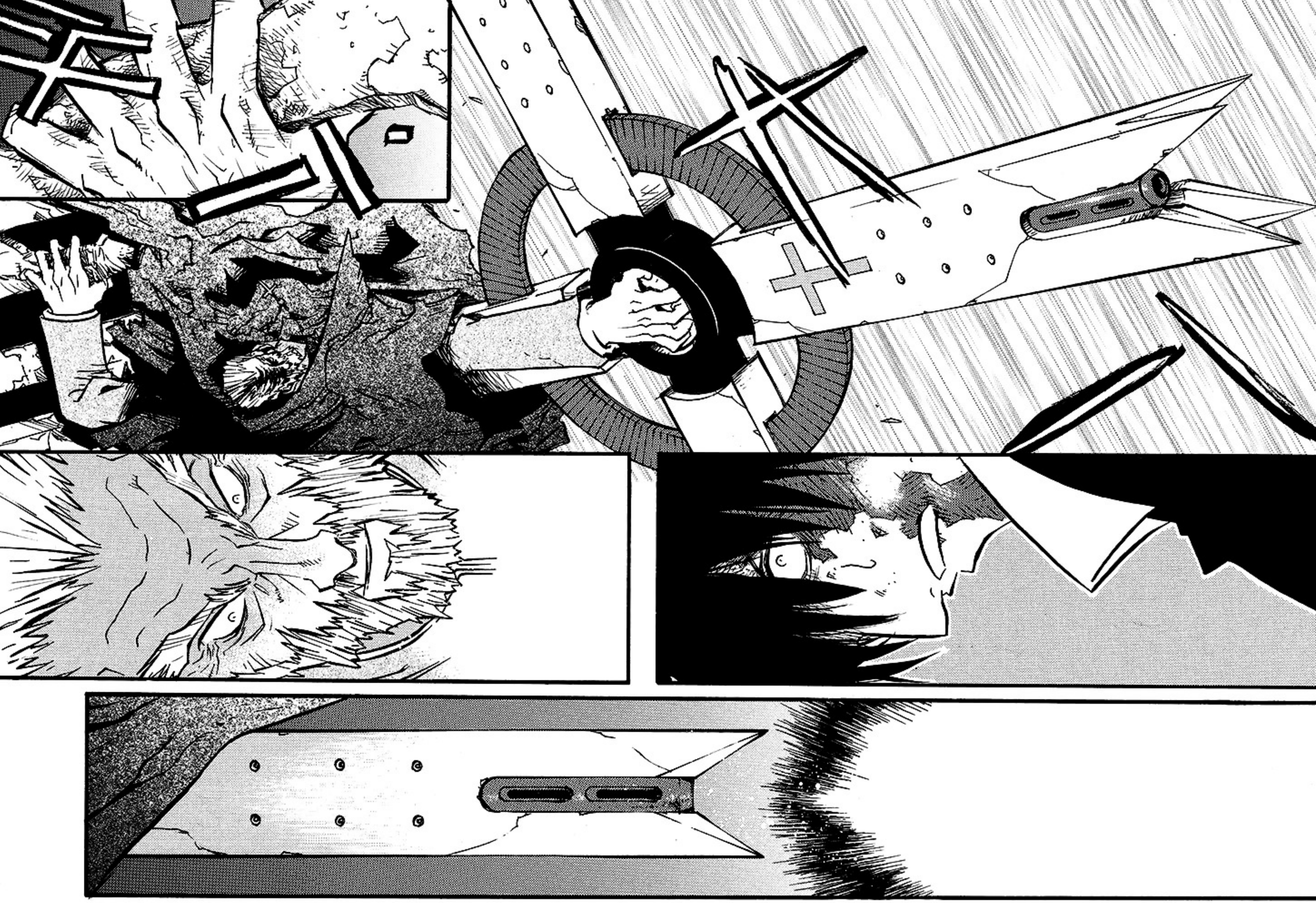
I'VE BEEN WAITING FOR THIS...

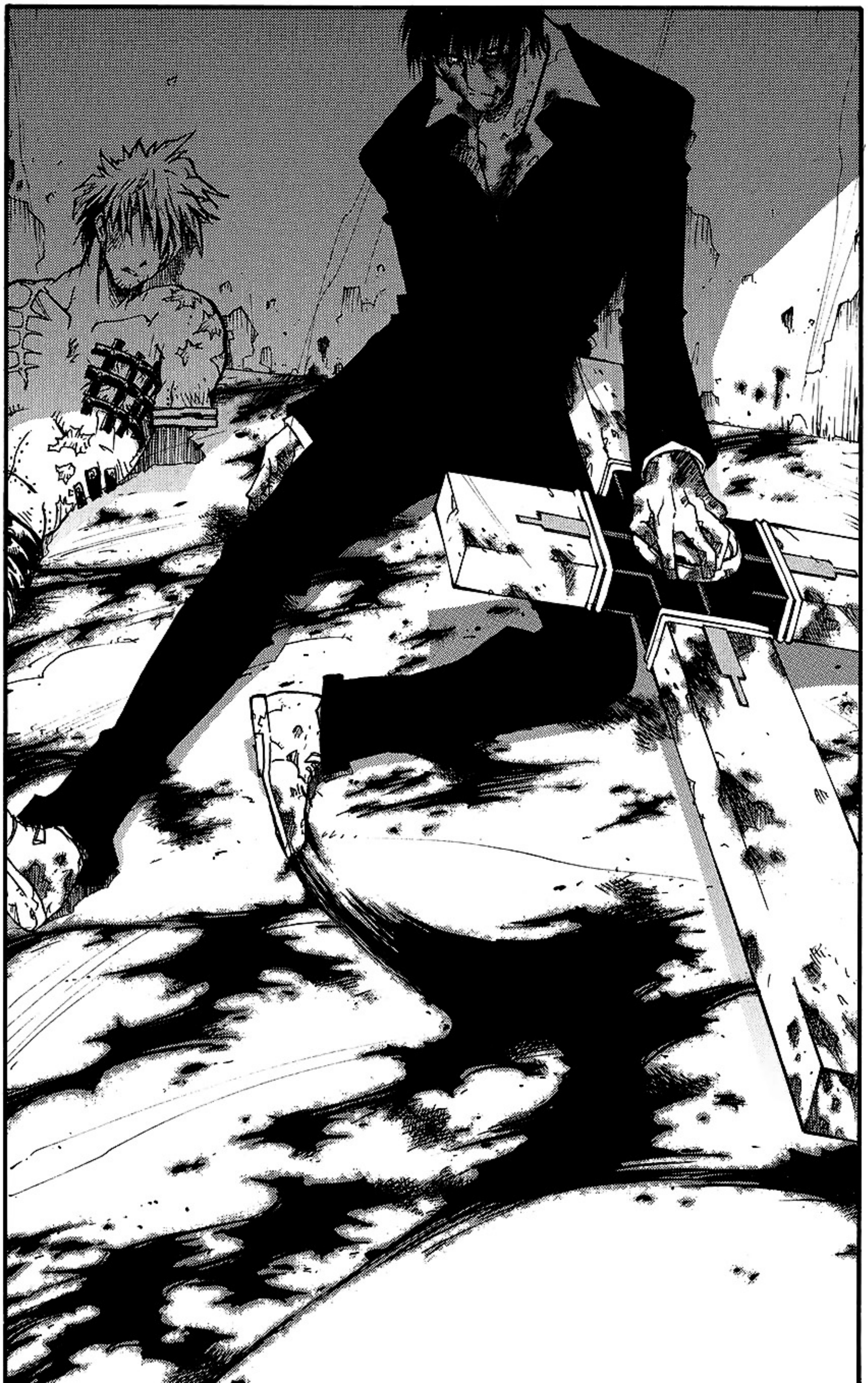
...NICHOLAS!

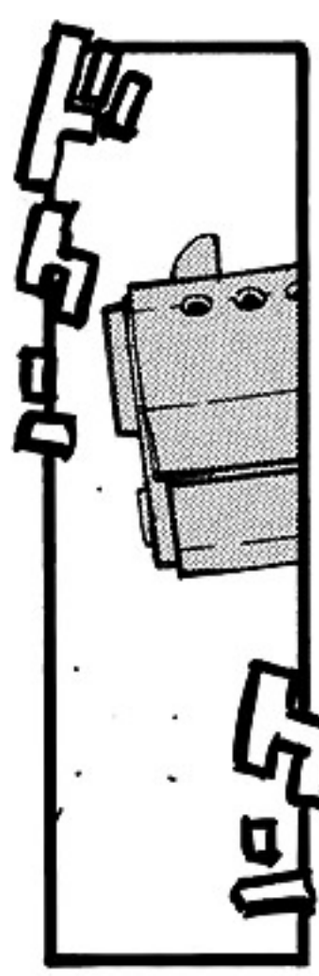


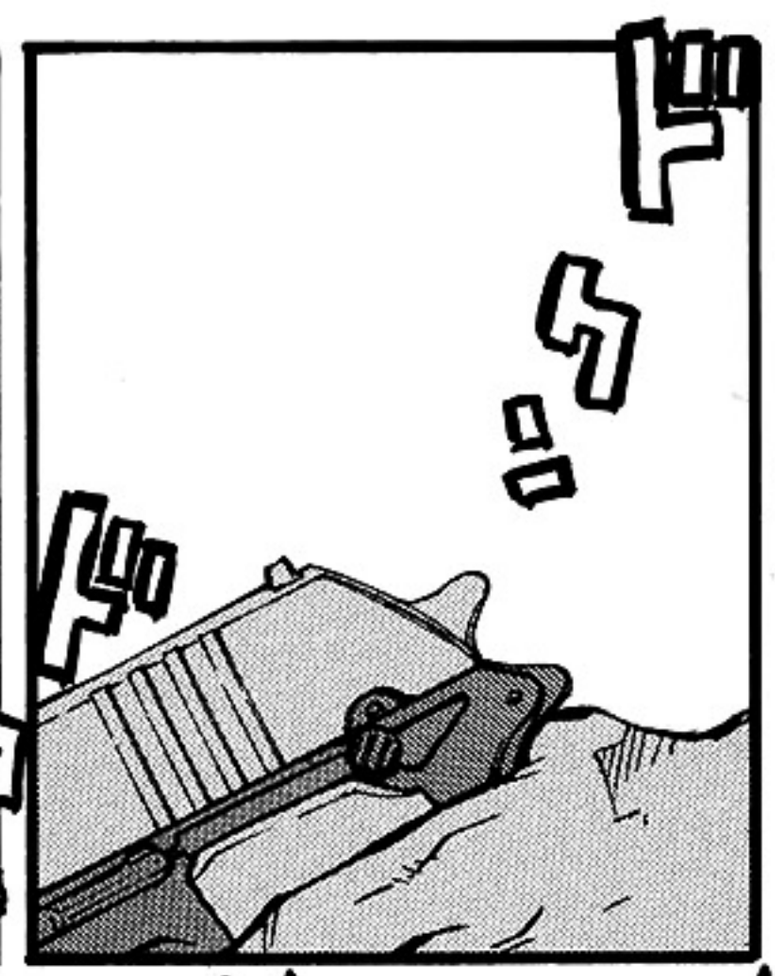


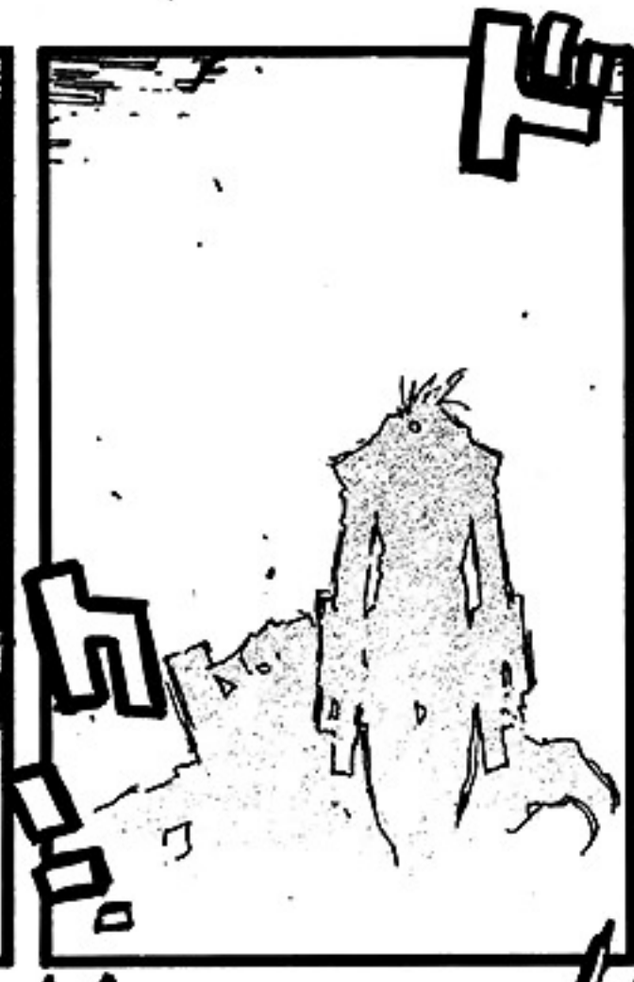

AAAAGH!



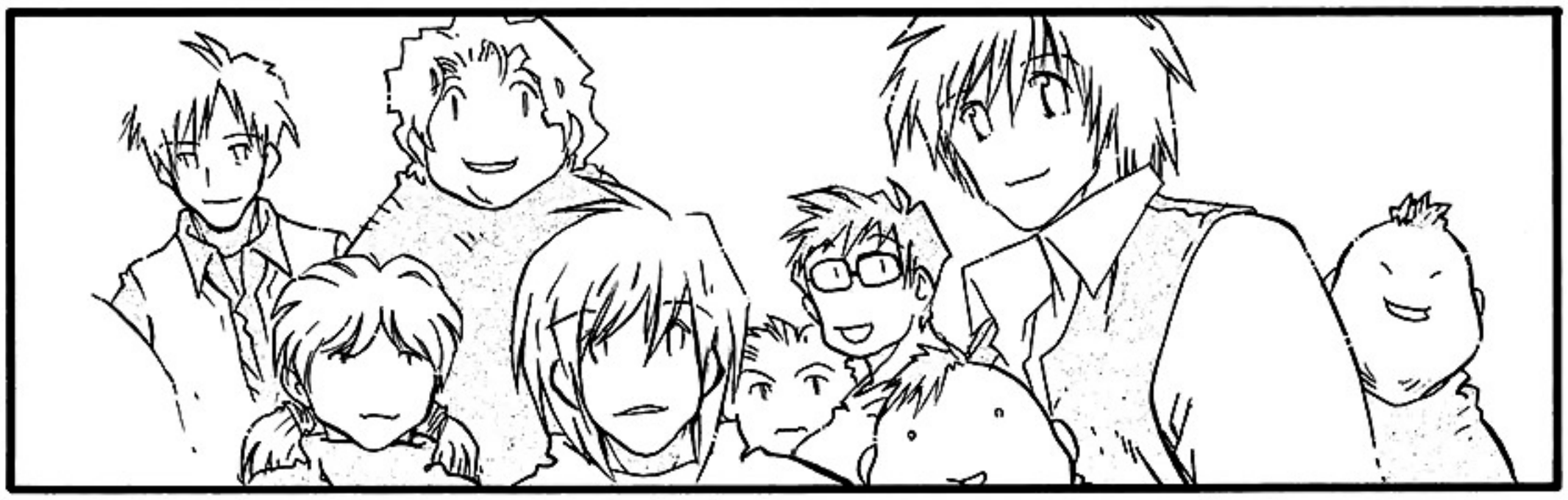








IS THIS REALLY THE END ...?!
BUT I'VE COME SO FAR ...!

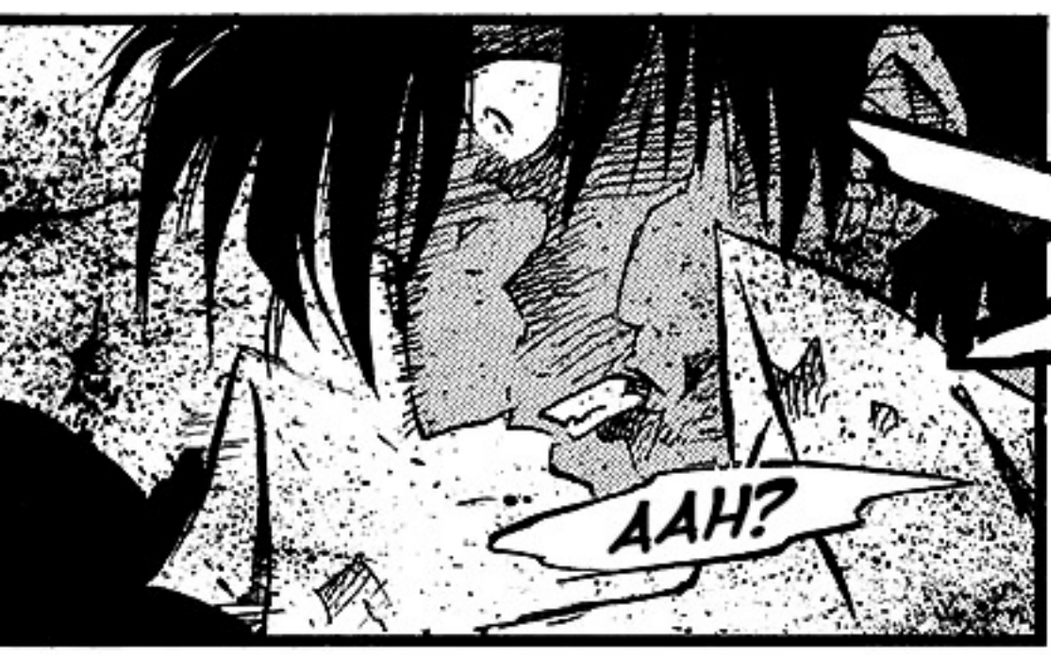


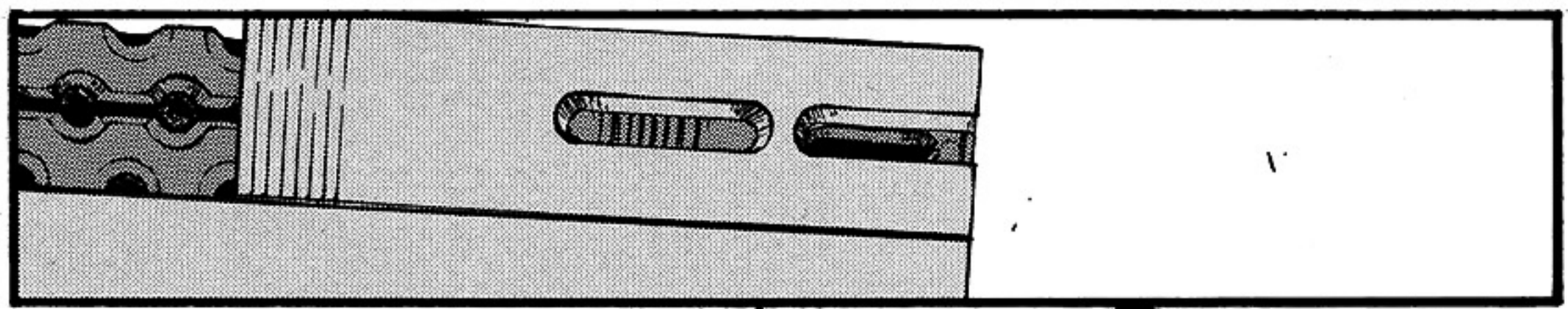
NOT YET!

HGH!

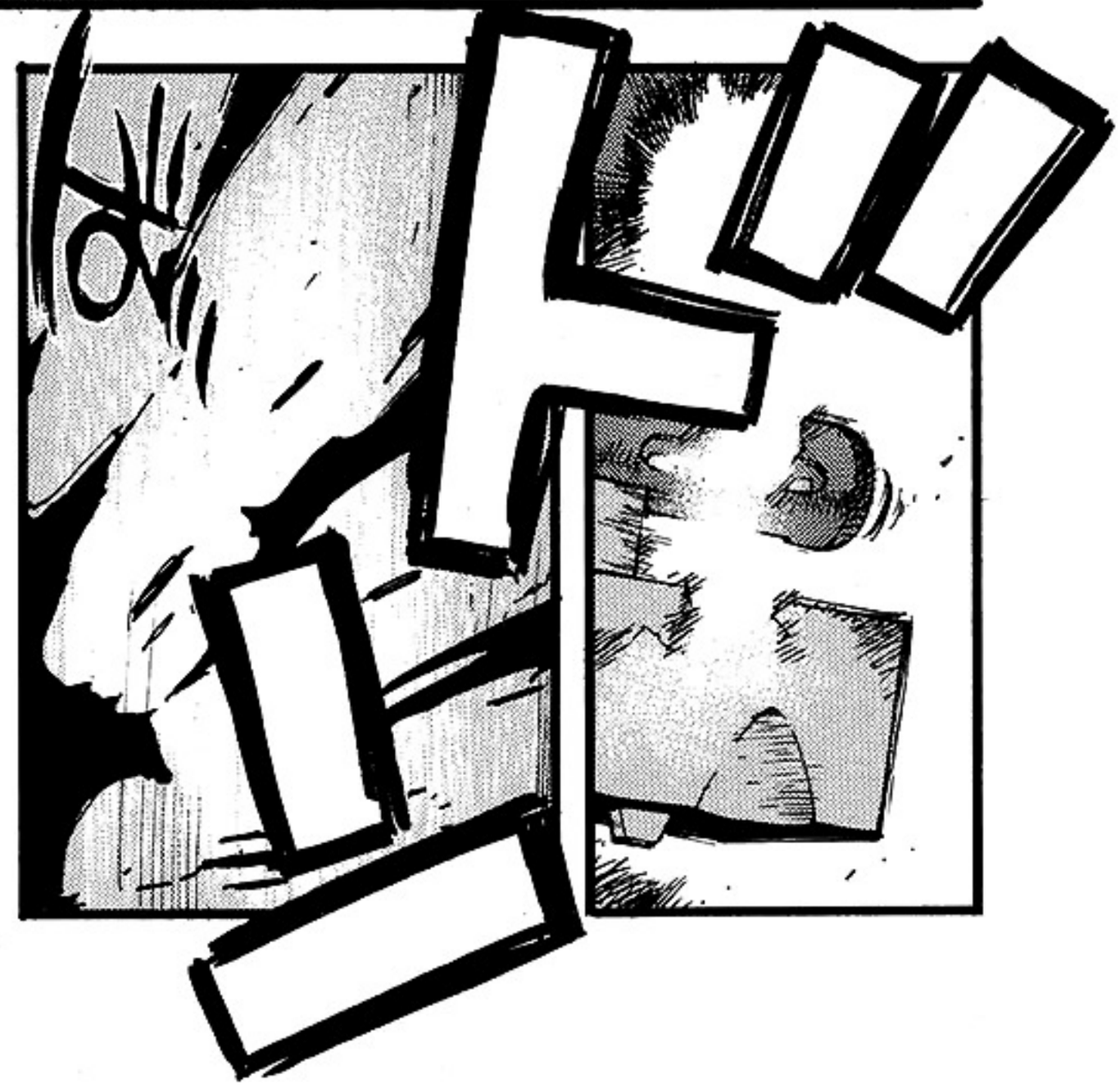
WE ALL COUNTED ON EACH OTHER TO SURVIVE!
WE SAVED YOU, LIVIO!
ゴッ

SHIT!





IT'S TOO LATE...



ALL I WANTED WAS TO PROTECT THE KIDS...
I BEG YOU...
PLEASE...
GOD...
IS THERE NO FORGIVENESS FOR THE SINS OF MY PAST?
OH MY LORD...
CAN A MURDERER...
AM I...
...NEVER CHANGE...?

...LOST?

NO, YOU ARE NOT LOST..
...WOLF-WOOD!

YOU'RE AWAKE...

HEH...

NEEDLE... NOGGIN...

YER A LITTLE LATE, IDIOT.

I'LL LET YA TAKE OVER FROM HERE.

I NEED A LITTLE REST...

...
...

I'M SORRY.

DON'T WORRY.

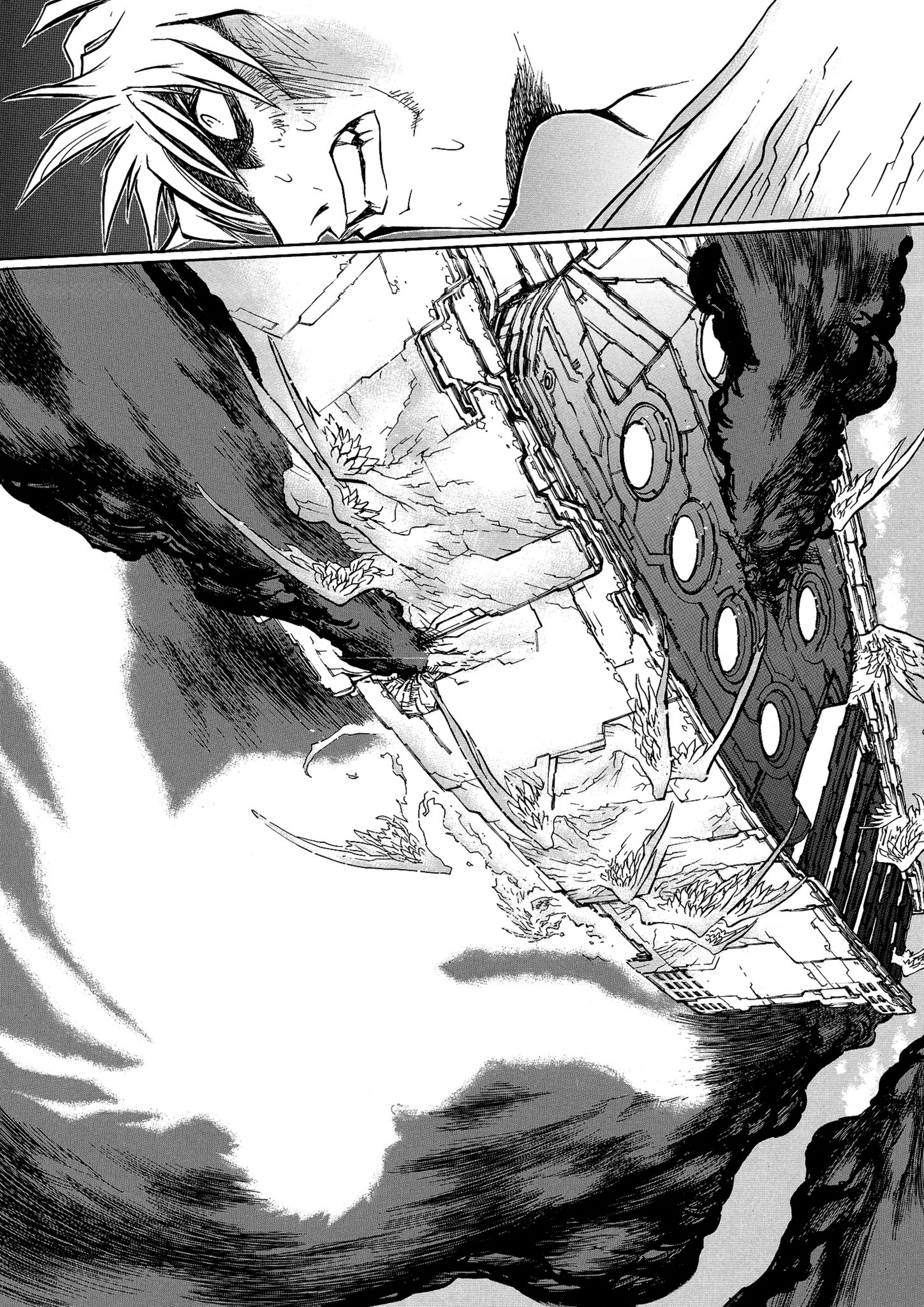
I AIN'T GONNA DIE.

I STILL HAVE TOO MUCH TO DO...

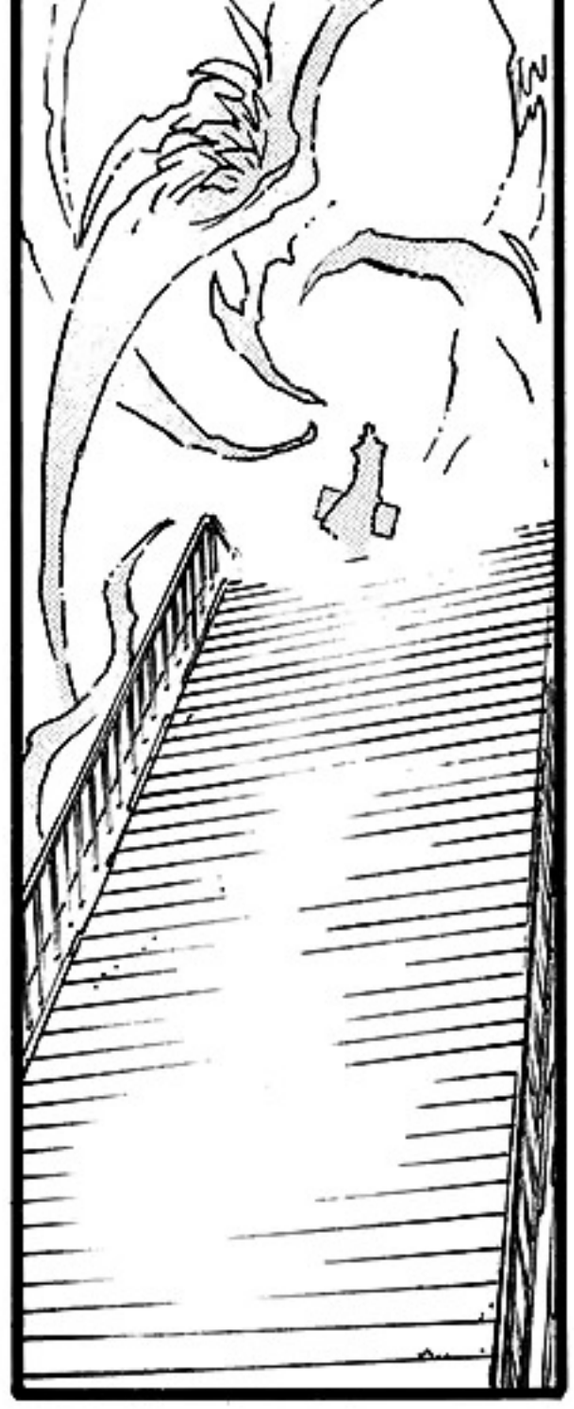
...
...

I OWE YOU FOR *SO MUCH,* DON'T I?
WOLF-WOOD...
WHO DO YOU *THINK* YOU ARE? YOU THINK YOU'RE THE *VICTIMS?*
... ...
DON'T USE POLITE LANGUAGE WITH ME.
THERE'S NO NEED FOR YOU TO USE THIS POWER...
PLEASE, STOP THIS.
...IF YOU PLAN ON INTERFERING, THAT *MIGHT* JUST BE THE CASE.
OF COURSE...

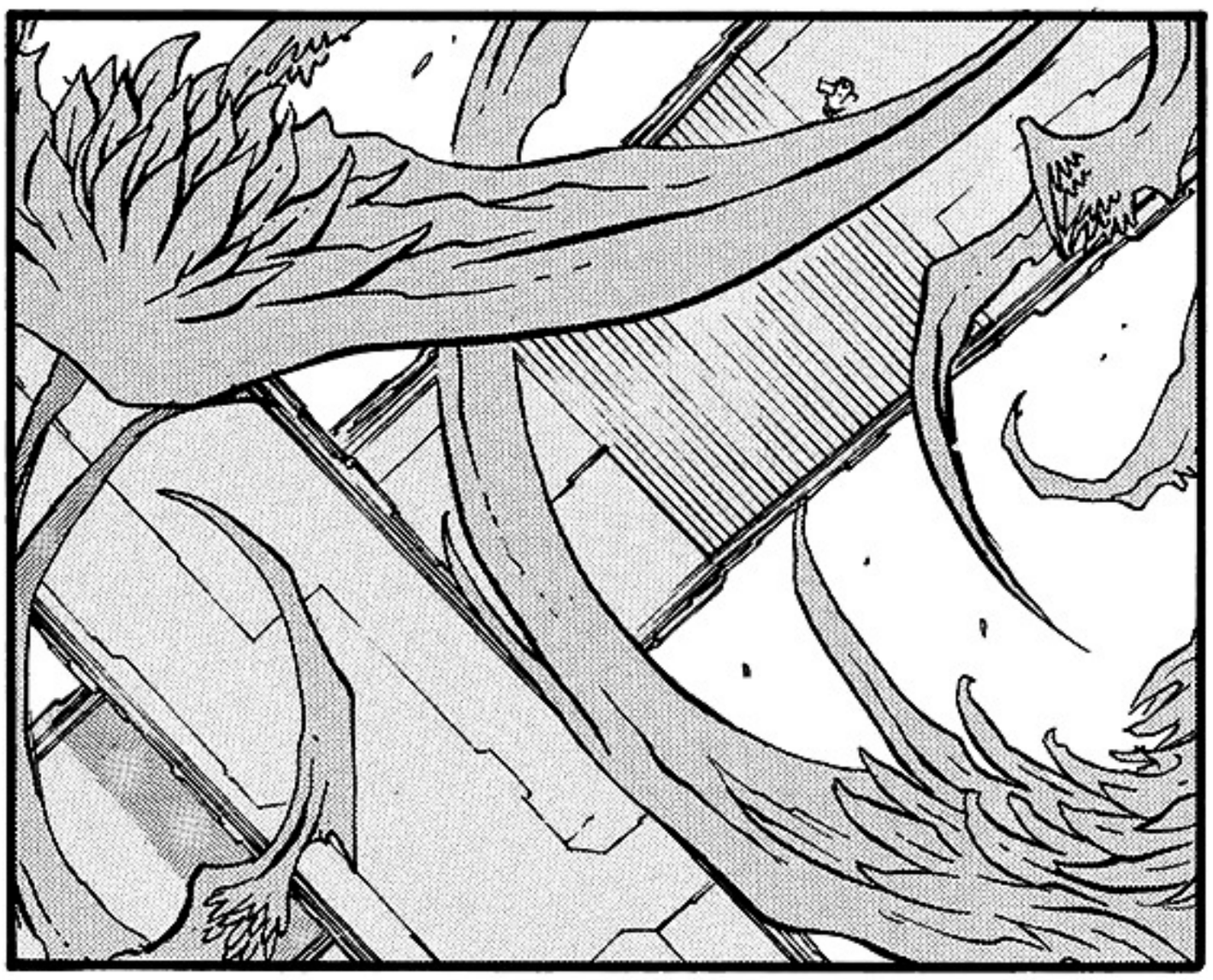
HE IS.
WE ARE NOT GOING TO INTERFERE.
YOU ARE GRAVELY MISTAKEN.
...
...



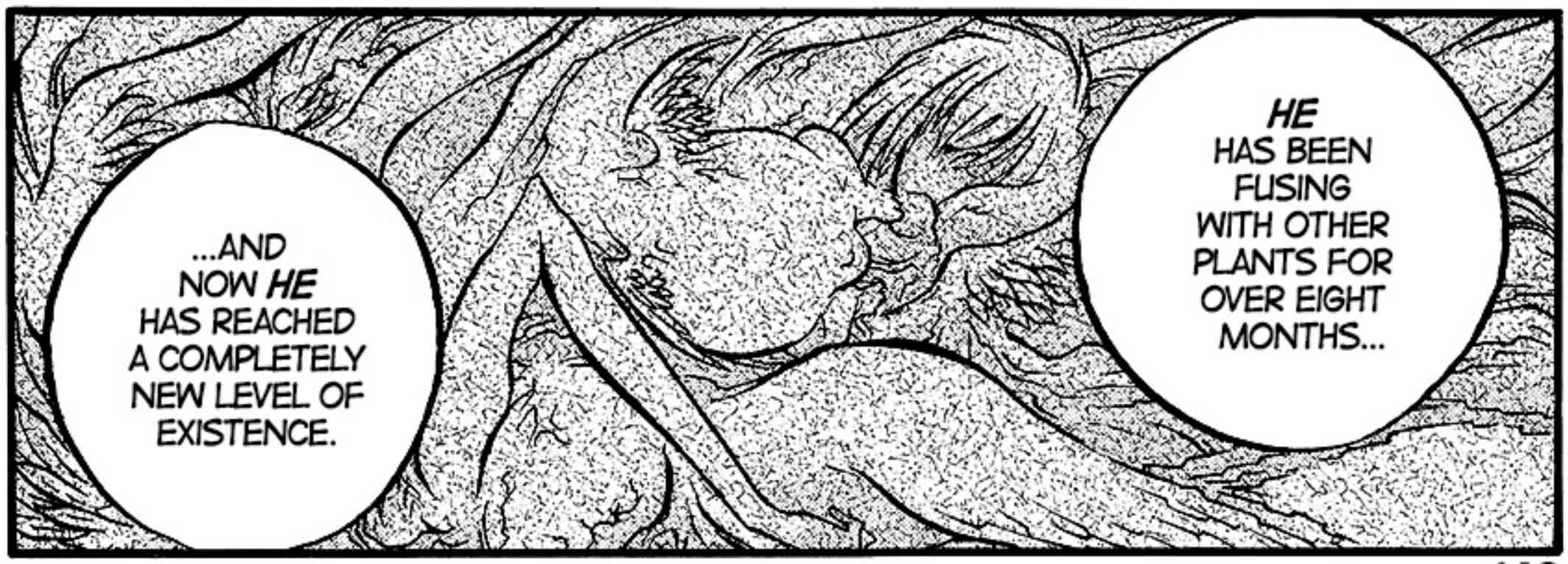
NO...



CHECK-MATE.



THIS *ISN'T* EVEN THE SAME GAME.


...AND NOW *HE* HAS REACHED A COMPLETELY NEW LEVEL OF EXISTENCE.
HE HAS BEEN FUSING WITH OTHER PLANTS FOR OVER EIGHT MONTHS...

MAKE JUST THE *SLIGHTEST* TWITCH OUT OF PLACE...

...AND *HE WILL* SEND YOU TO YOUR DEATHS.

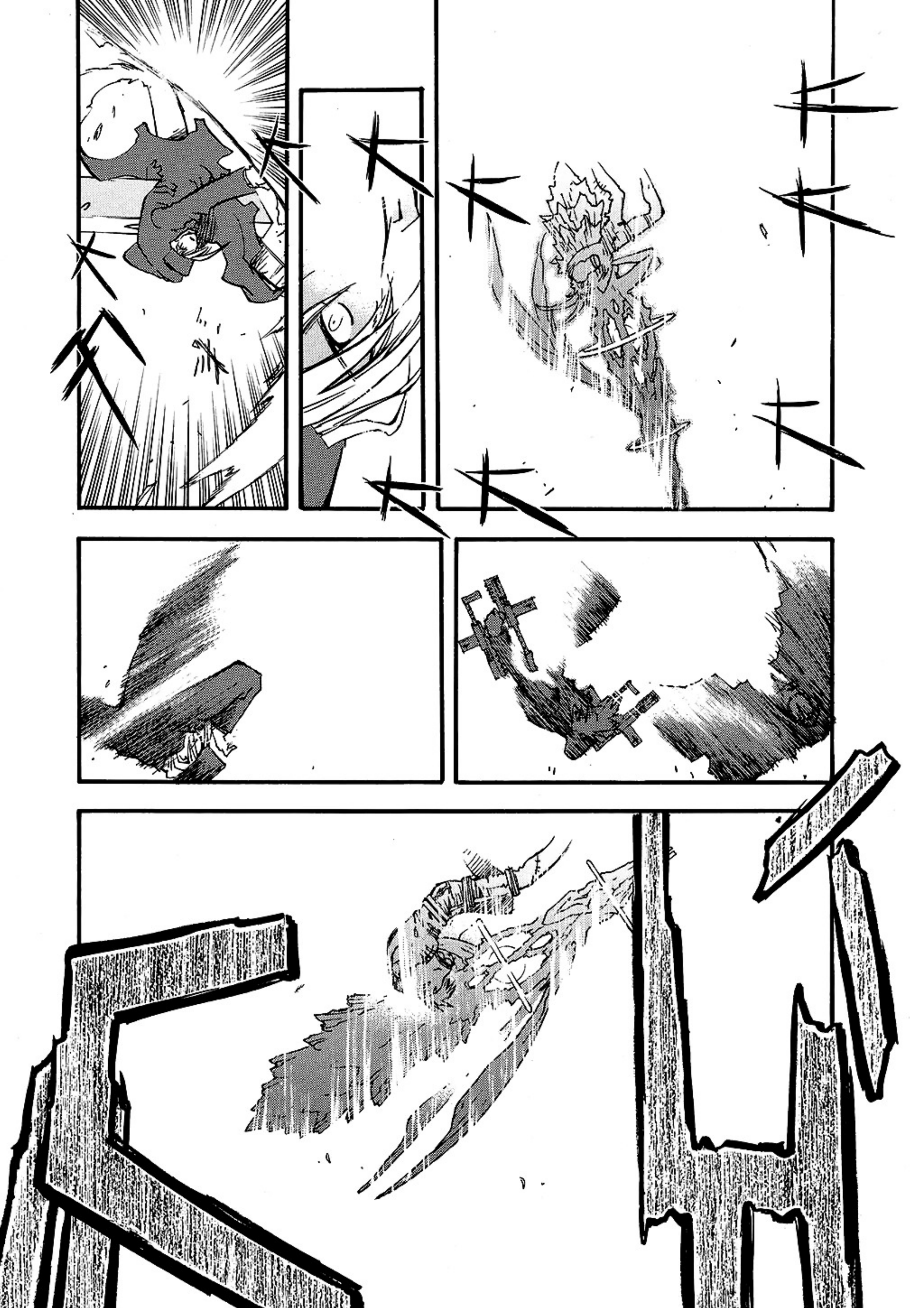
GIVE UP.

...
...
YOU KNOW...
THIS MAN...
...HE PUT HIS LIFE ON THE LINE FOR ME.
HE FEARS DEATH AS MUCH AS ANY-ONE...
...AND RIGHT NOW, HE'S TRYING HIS BEST TO HOLD ON TO LIFE.

YOU THINK I *CARE* WHETHER I LIVE OR DIE?
SOMEONE LIKE HIM IS ALL THE *REASON* I NEED TO KEEP FIGHTING.
HERE I GO.

YOU IDIOT!
YOU'RE THROWING YOUR LIFE AWAY!
AA AA AA

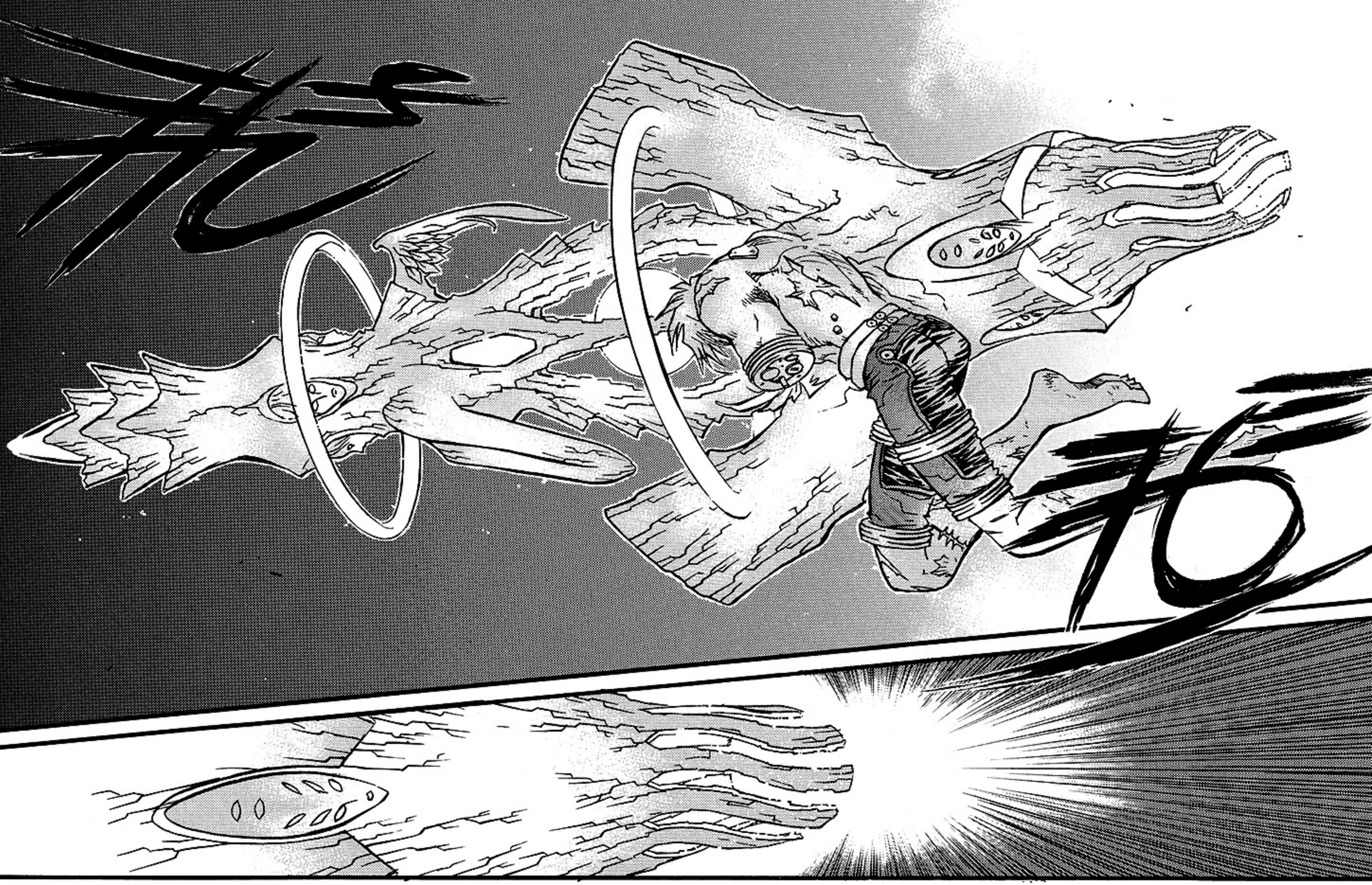
I'M REALLY GOING TO END IT THIS TIME!
DON'T GO...
STOP...
VASH!
WE ONLY HAVE EACH OTHER...
I SWEAR!
...BRO-THER!
I'M GOING TO KILL YOU!

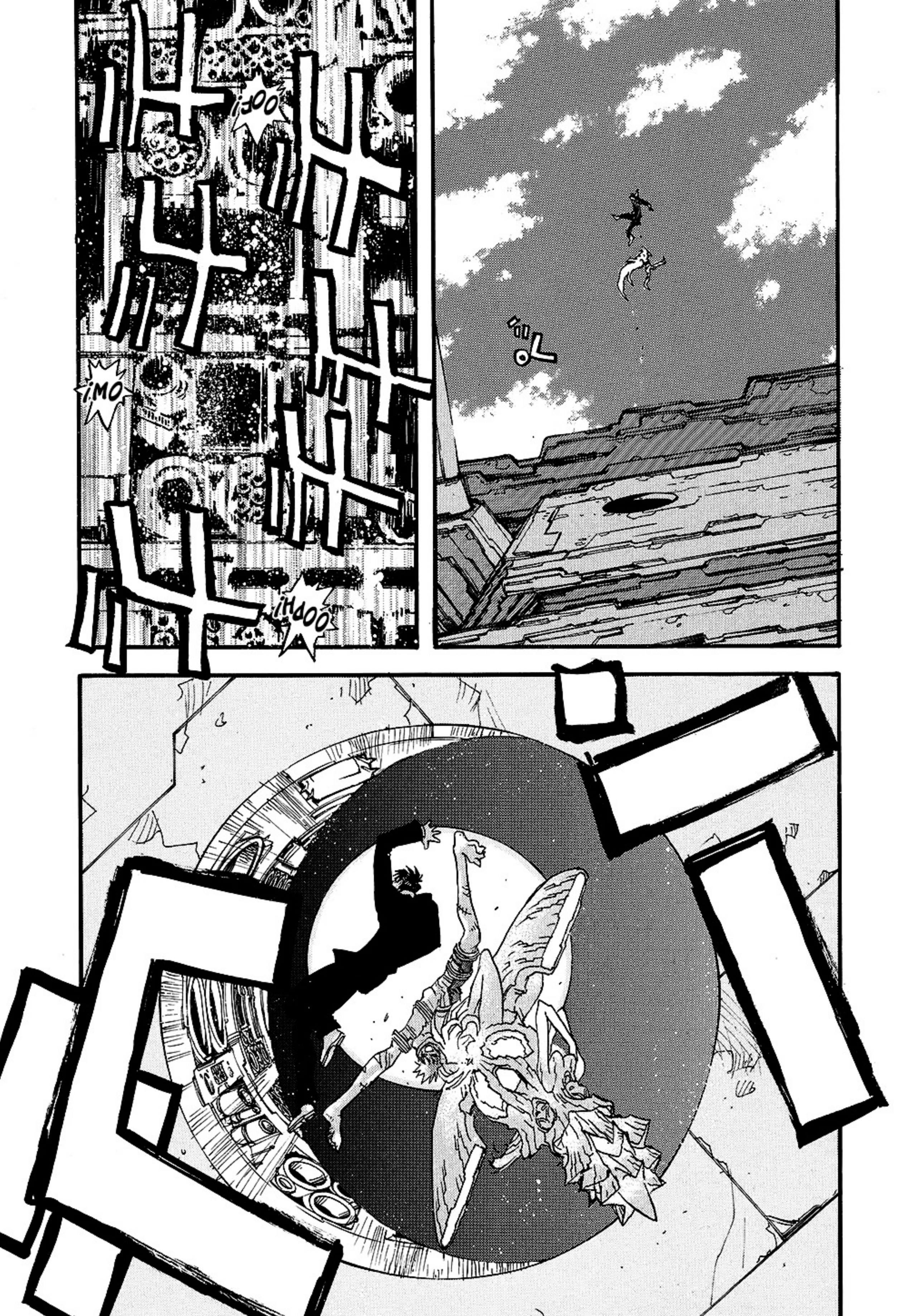


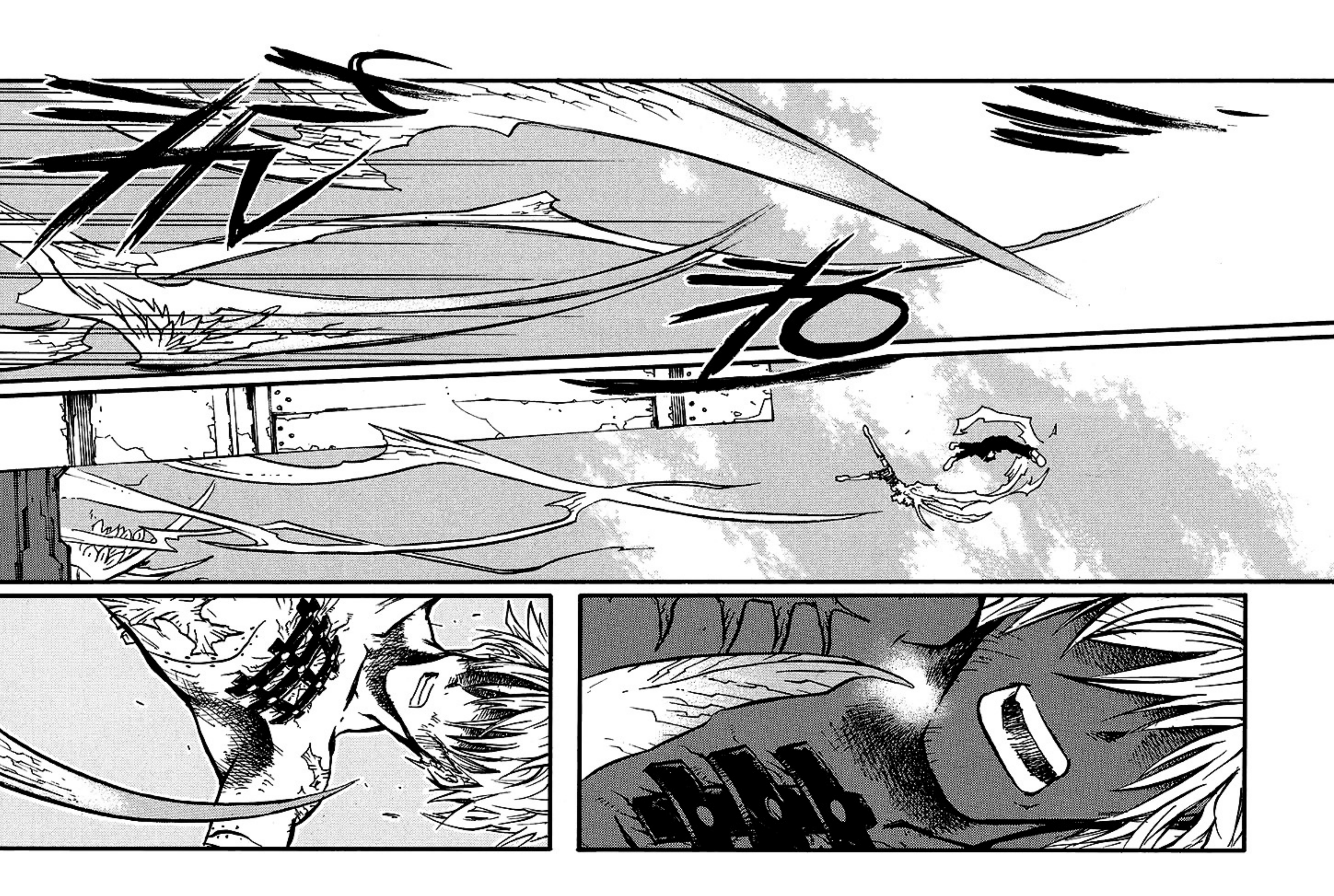
I CAN'T TAKE A SHOT!

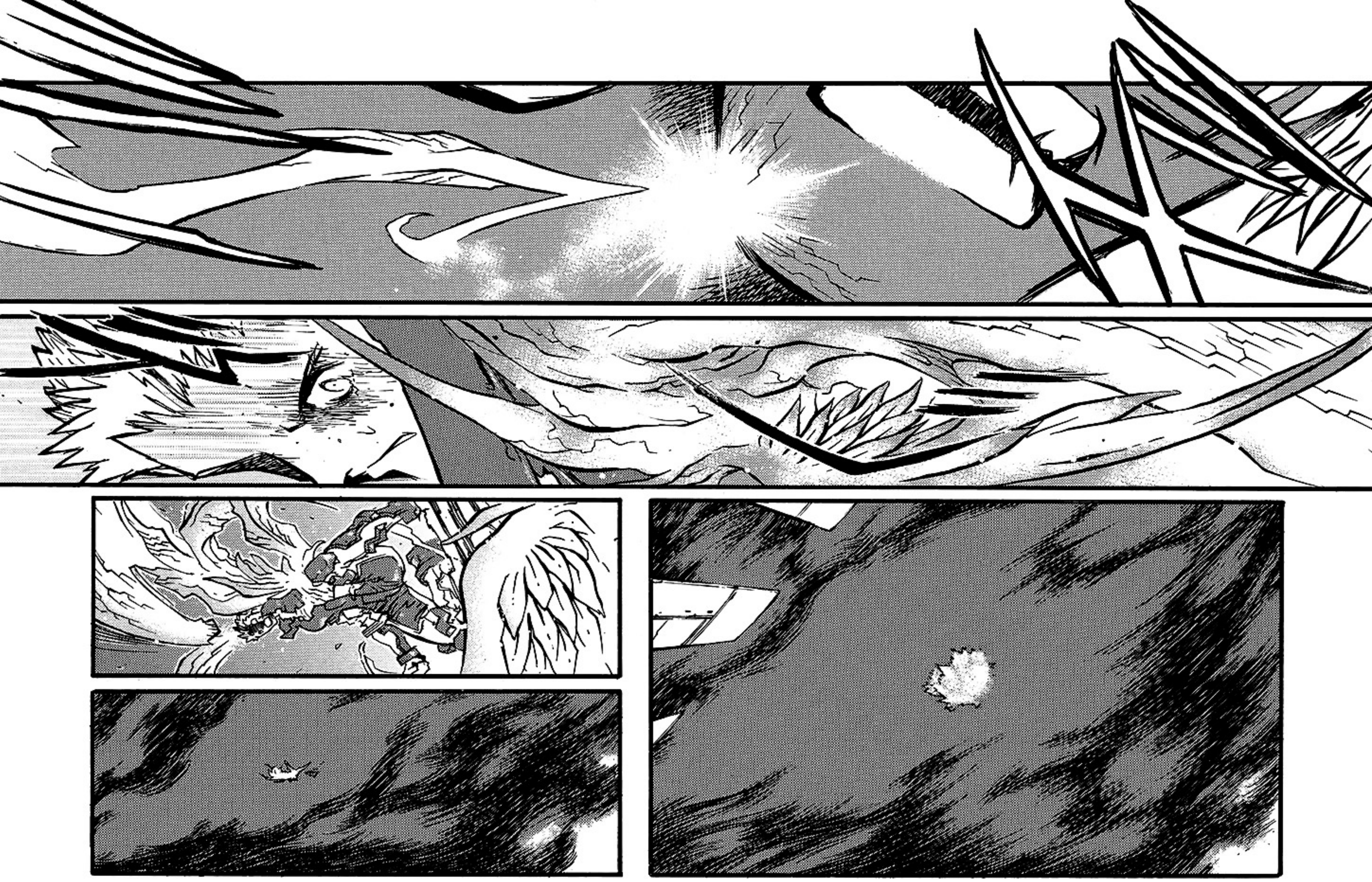
HIS AUTOMATIC DEFENCES HAVE KICKED IN.

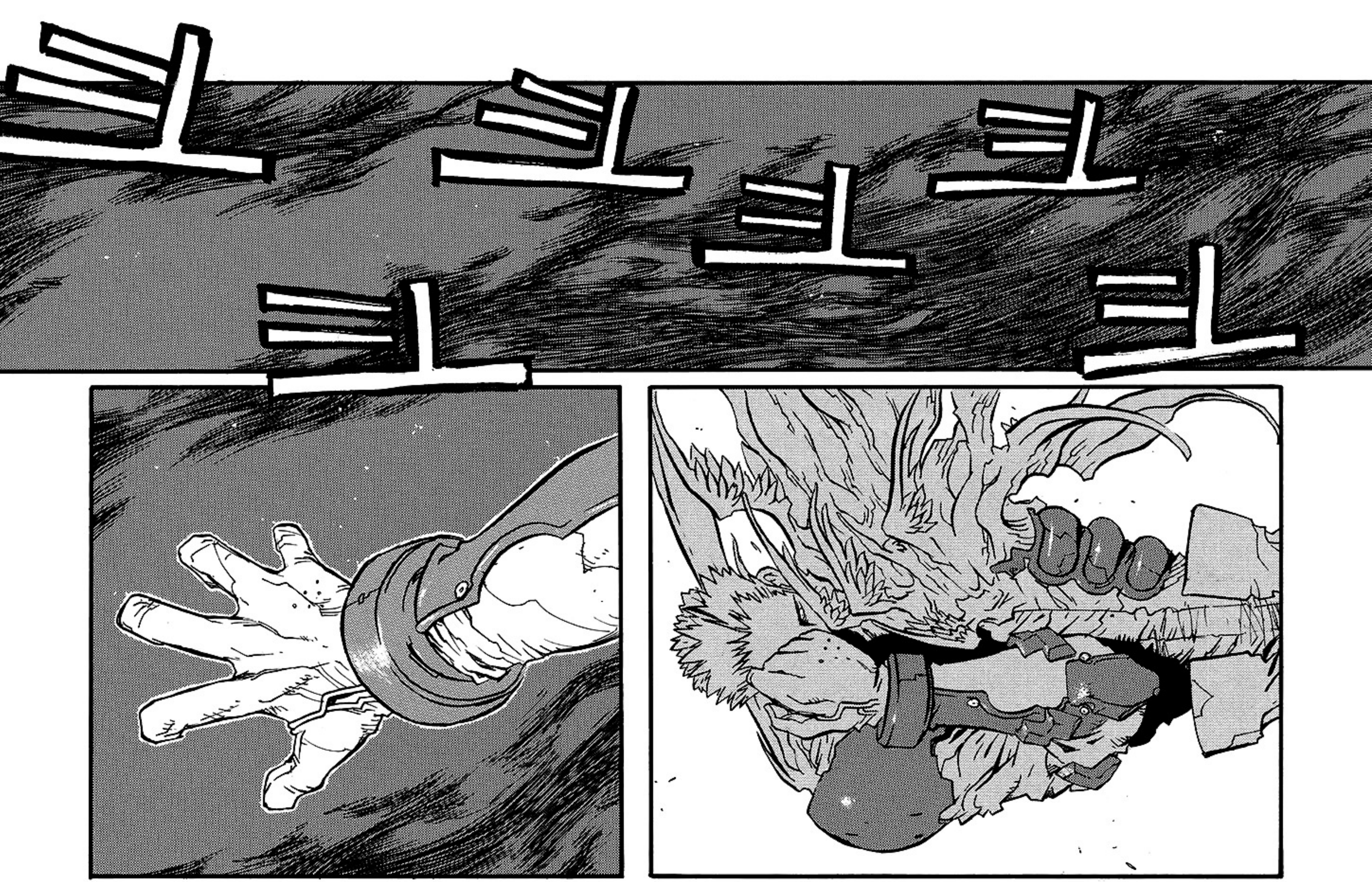
STOP!!

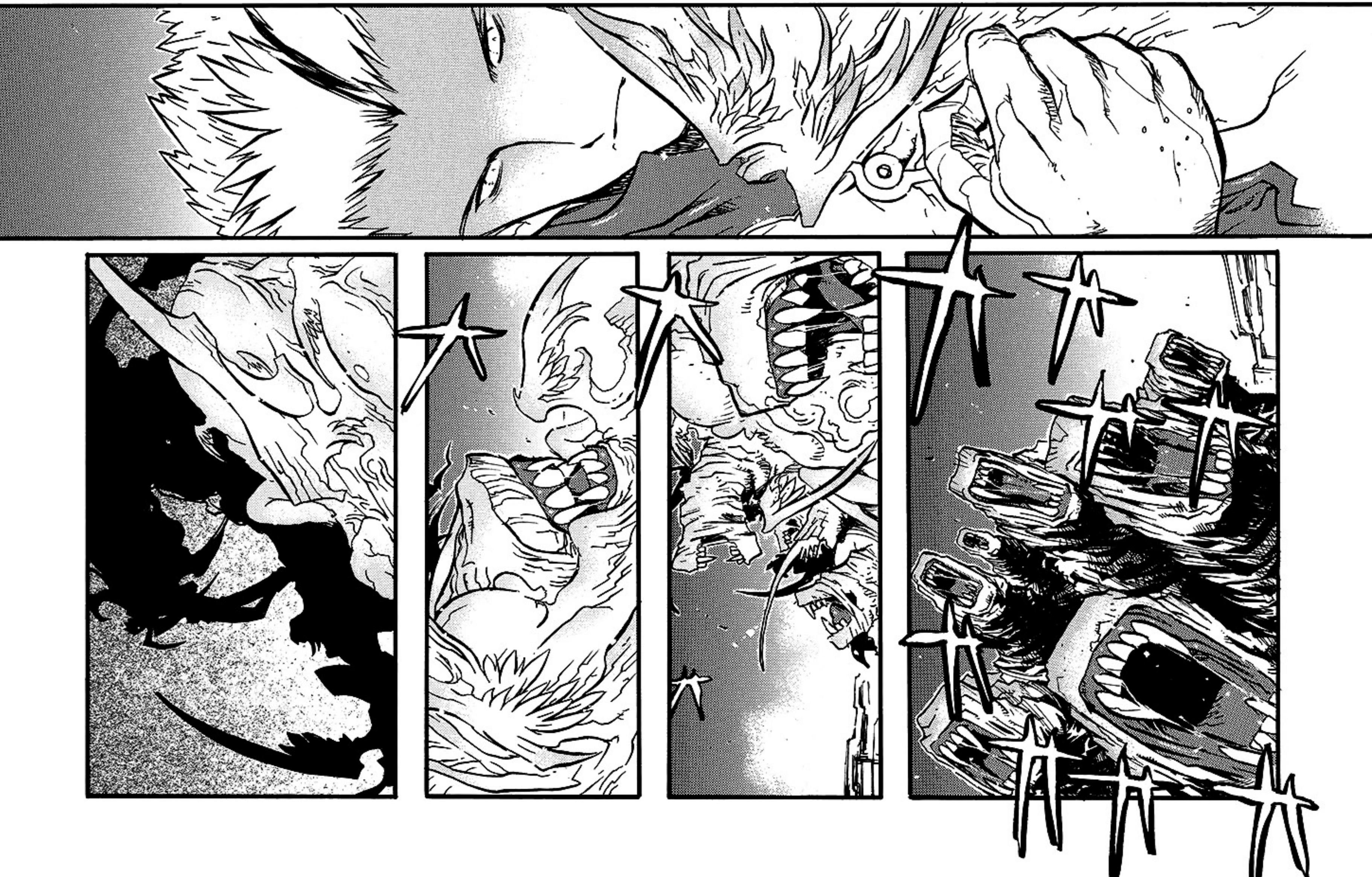



¡JOO!
¡MO
¡HOOO
"..."









YEAH.

SOMETHING DEFINITELY FELL OVER THERE!

YOU SURE YOU SAW IT?!

I SAW IT REFLECTING LIGHT WHEN IT FELL FROM THE PLANT MASS.

?!

WAIT, THAT'S ...

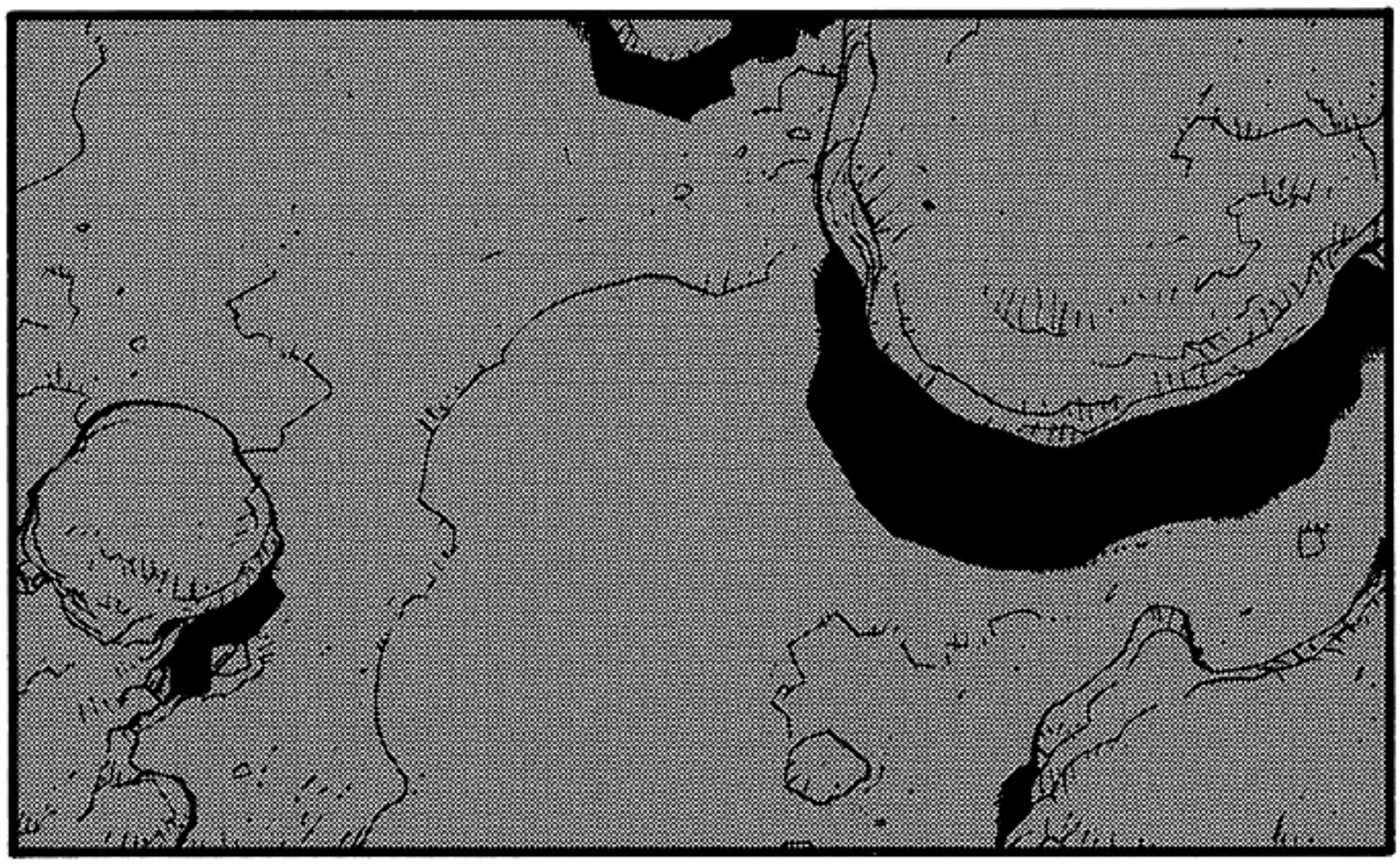
KEEP LOOK-ING!

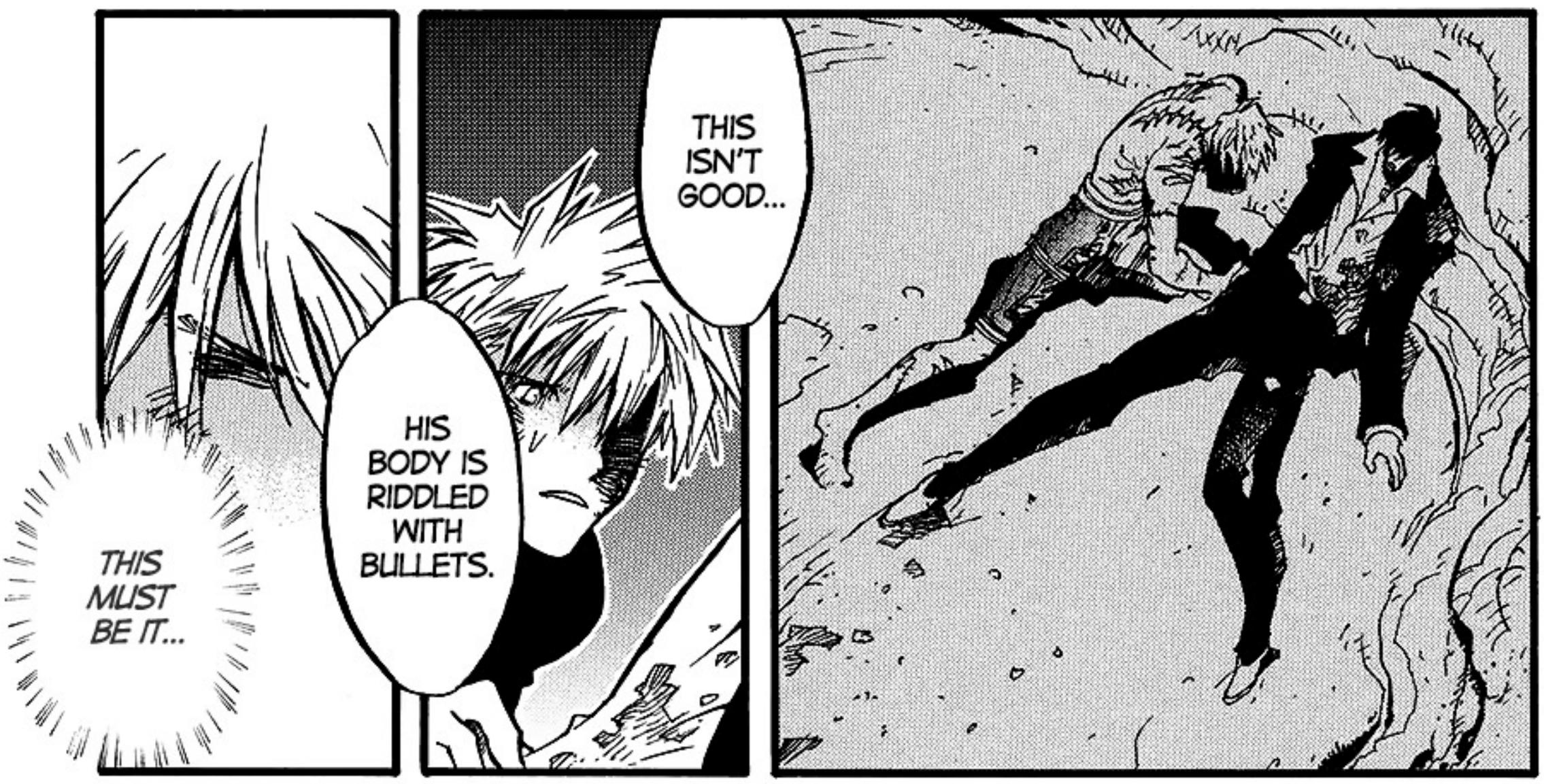
I DON'T SEE ANYONE IN THE AREA.

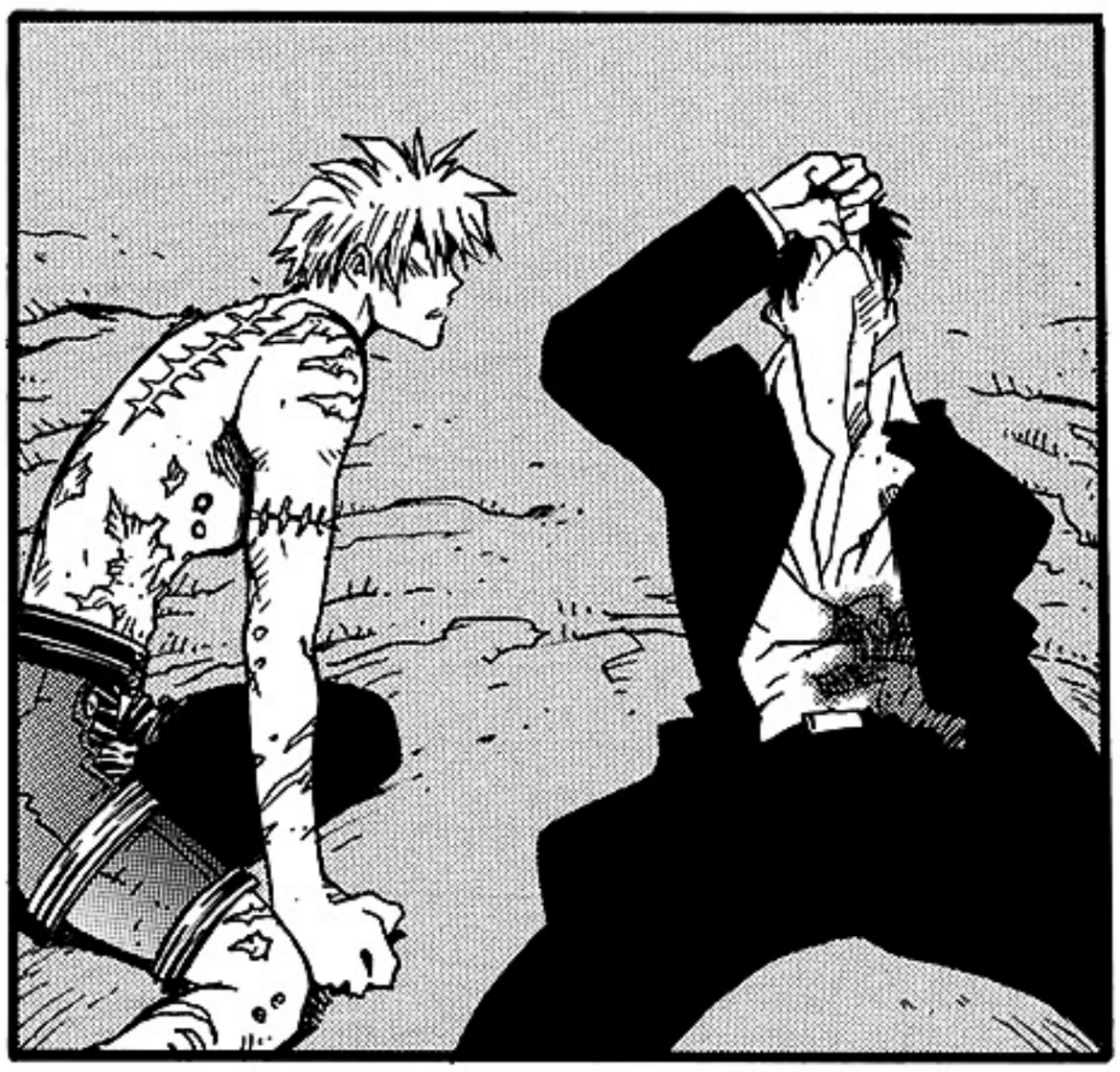
THE PREACHER'S WEAPON...

BUT THERE'S NOTHING ELSE...

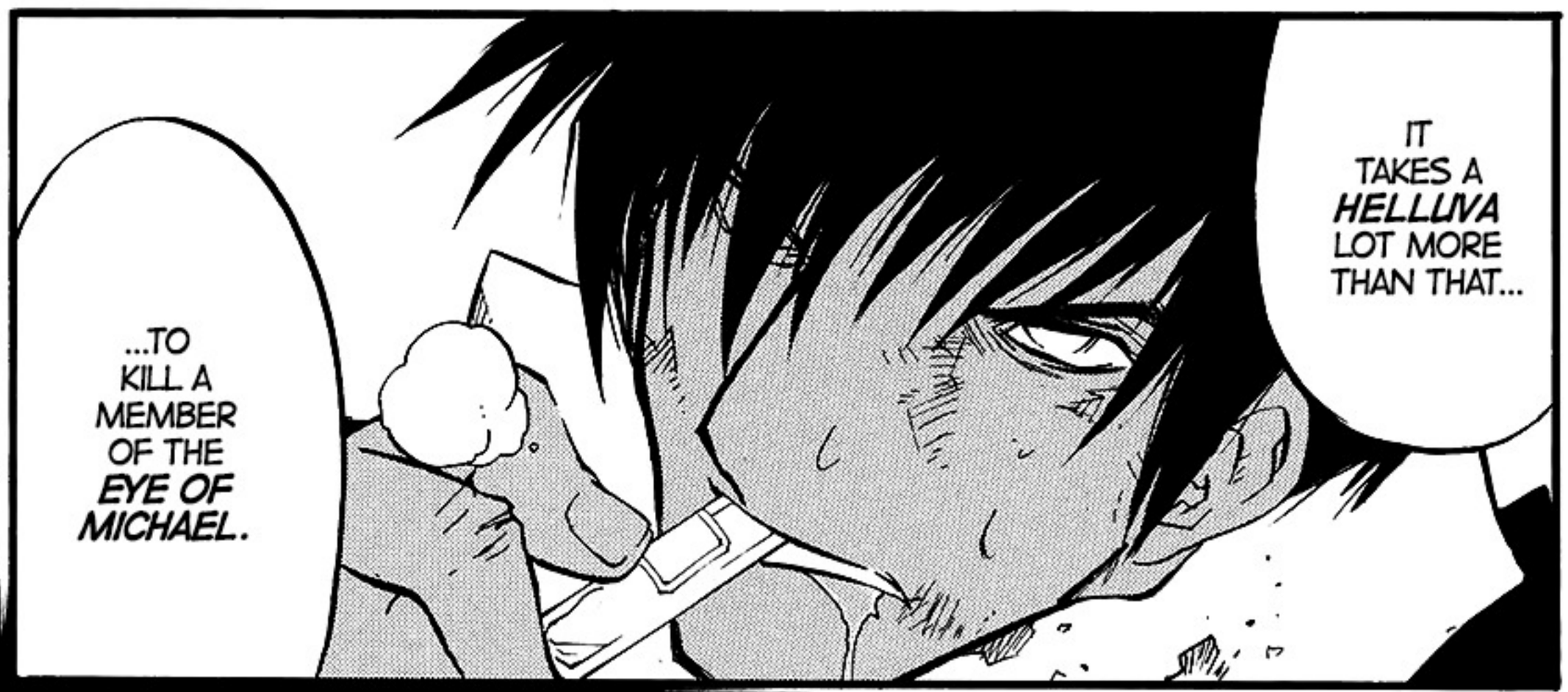
#05. PARTING WAYS

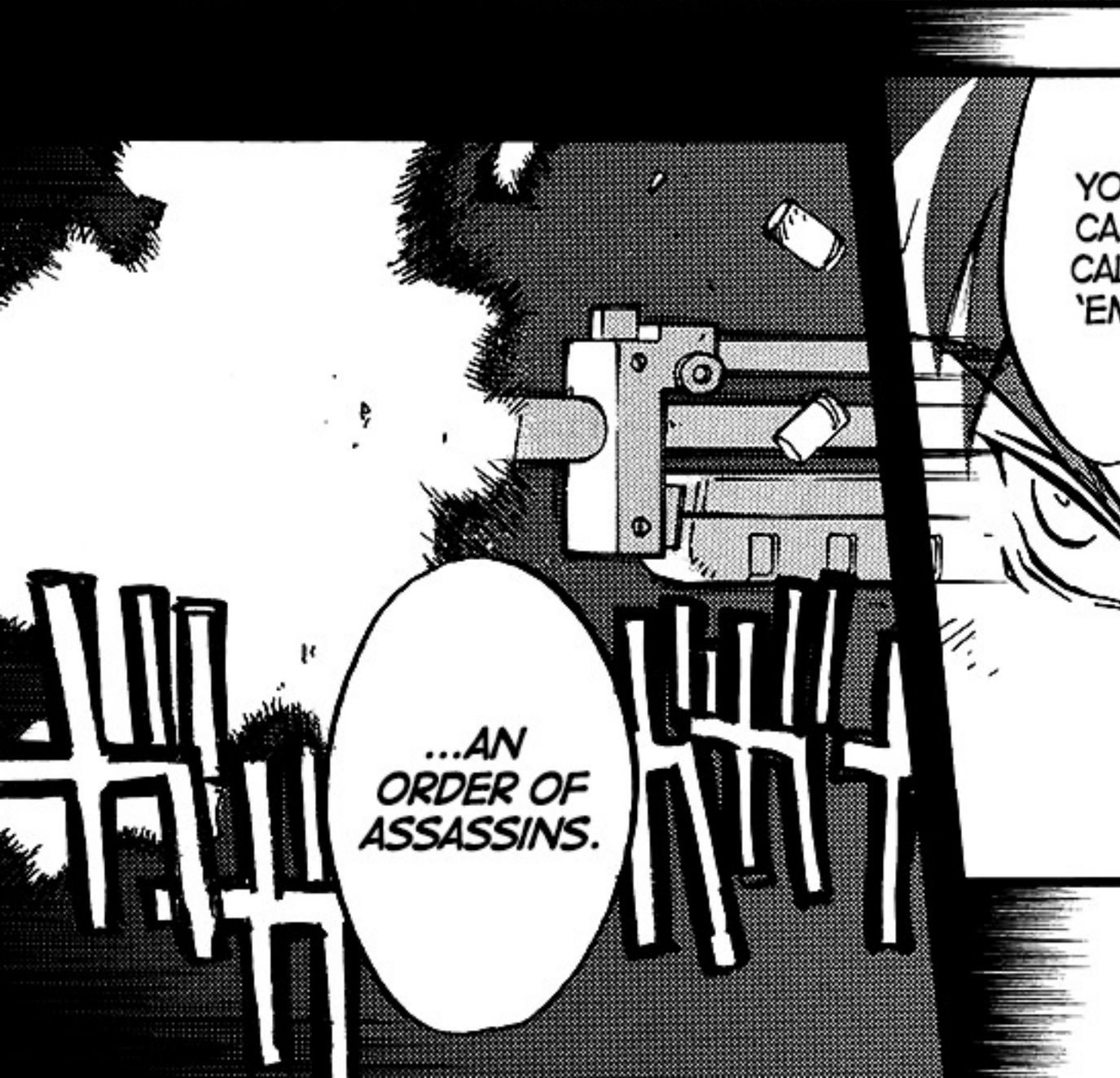






?!
WOLF-WOOD ?!


...TO KILL A MEMBER OF THE *EYE OF MICHAEL*.
IT TAKES A *HELLUVA* LOT MORE THAN THAT...


...AN ORDER OF ASSASSINS.
YOU CAN CALL 'EM...

...
...
THE EYE OF MICH-AEL?

HOW-EVER...
YOUR COMBAT SKILLS HAVE REACHED AN ADEQUATE LEVEL.
THAT'S ENOUGH!

BEING HIT BY A SINGLE BULLET...

...CAN DECREASE YOUR ABILITIES SUBSTANTIALLY.

GAH!

GAAA HAAA AAA!!

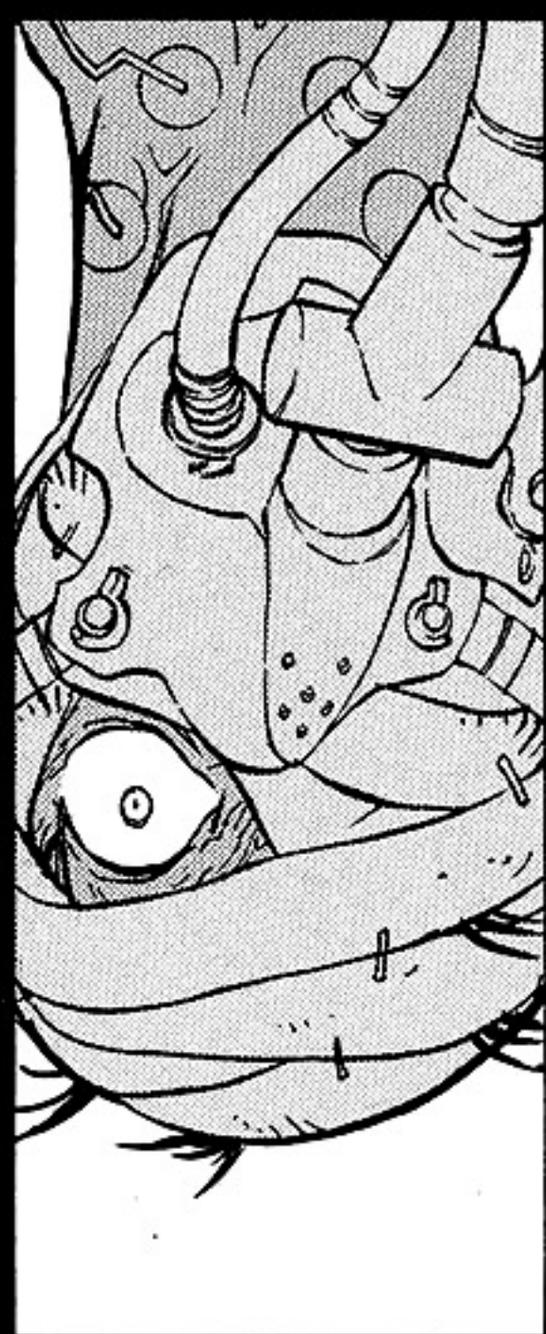
NOW...

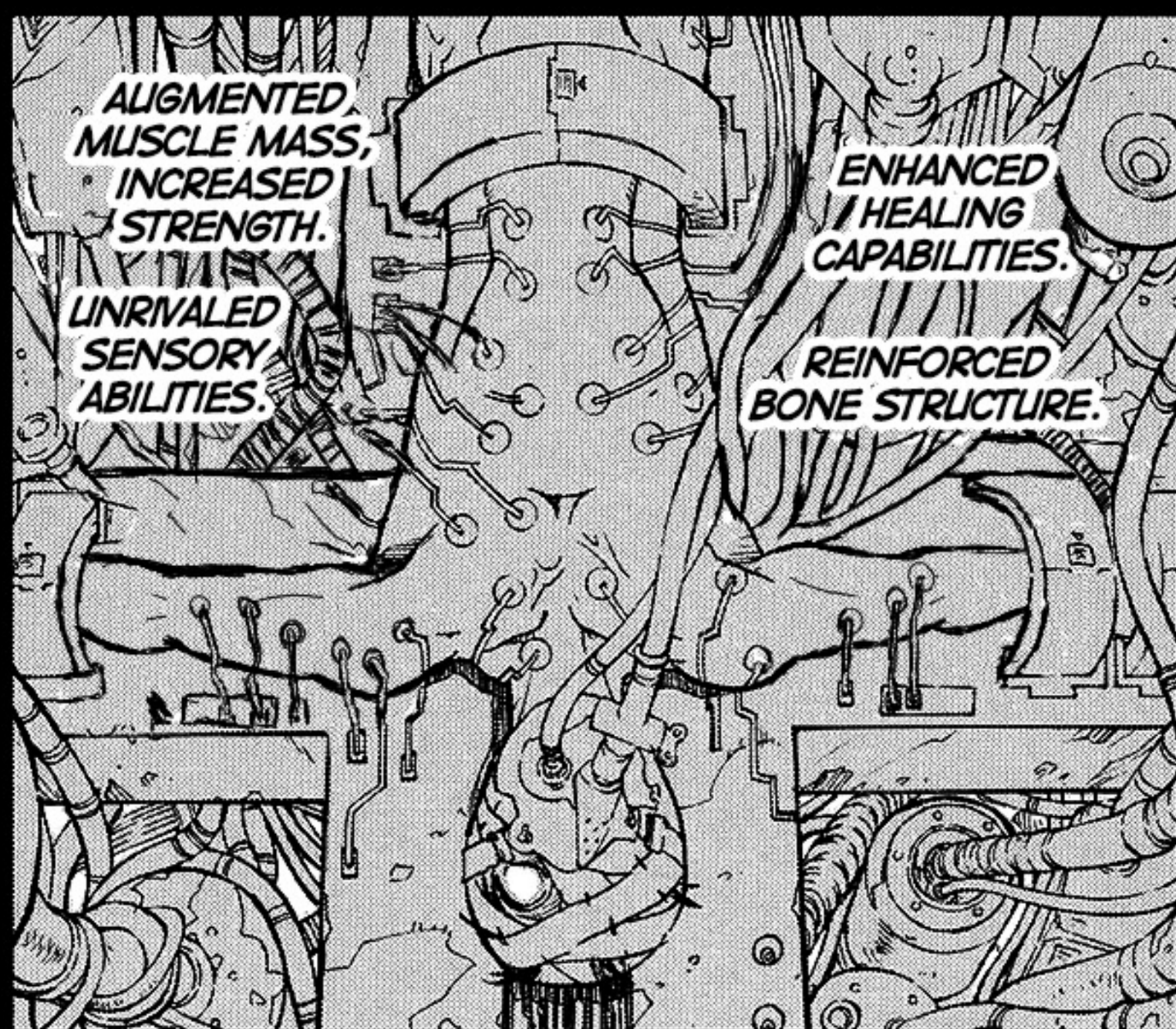
SHALL WE BEGIN?

...WE MUST MAKE MODIFICATIONS TO YOUR BODY, TO ***PUSH*** YOUR PHYSICAL SKILLS BEYOND THAT OF AN ***ORDINARY*** HUMAN.

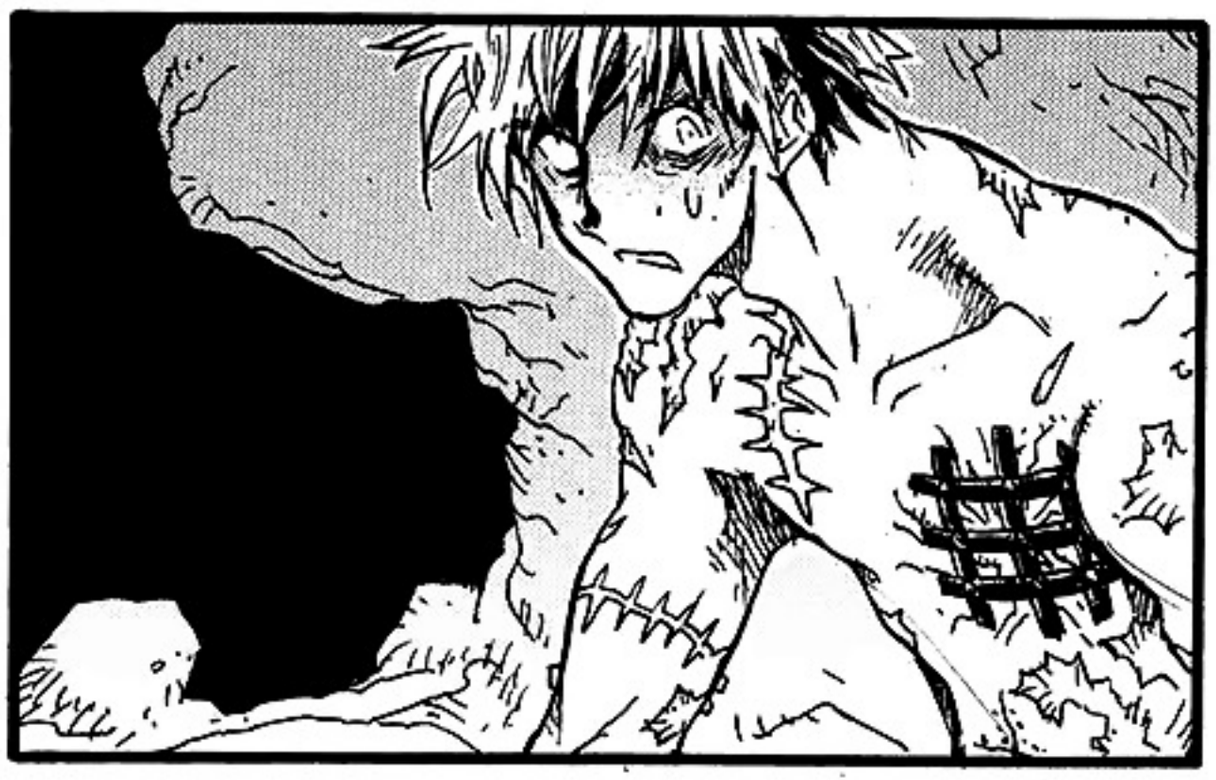
IN ORDER TO MAKE YOU THE PERFECT SERVANT...

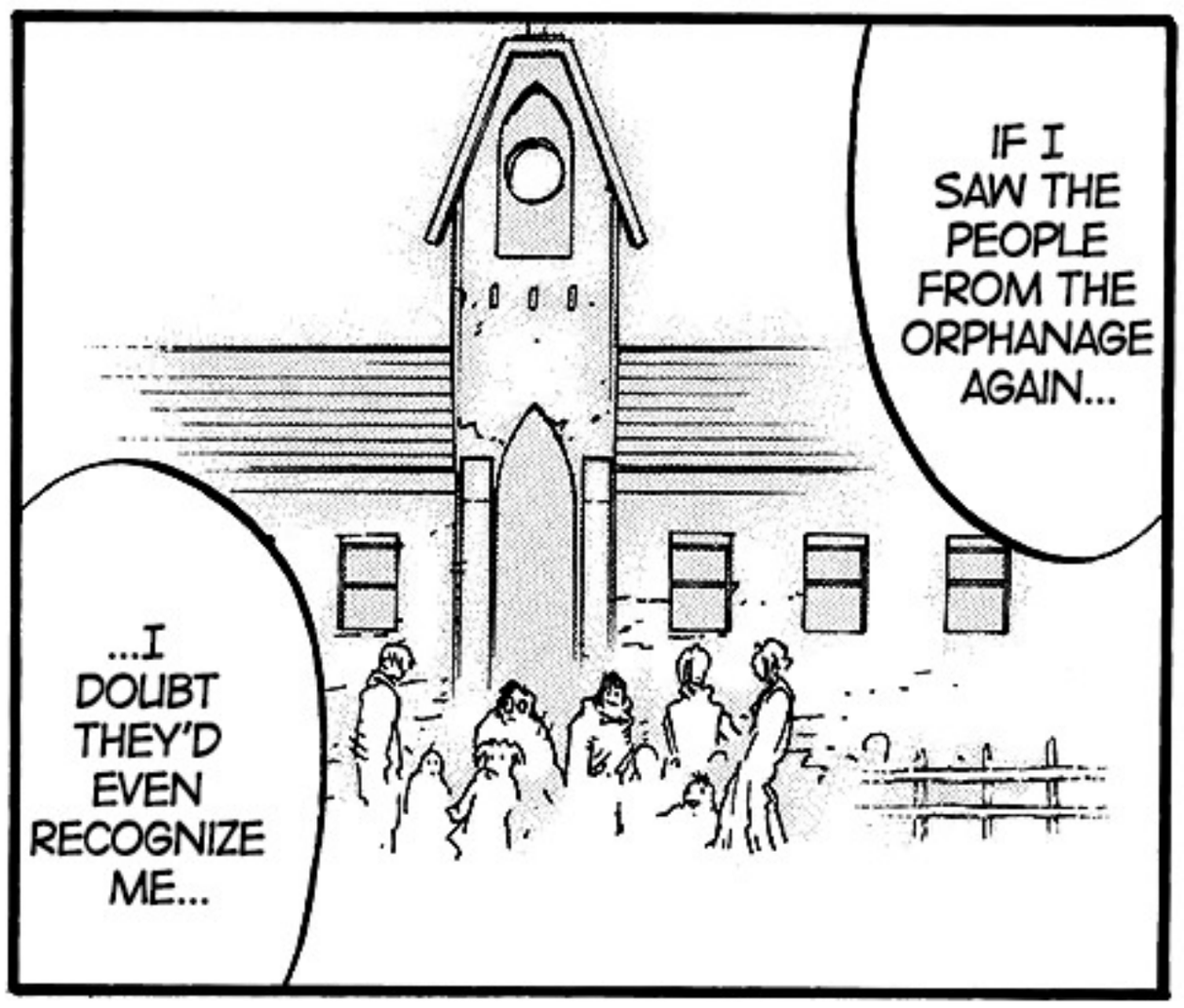
DO YOU SEE?

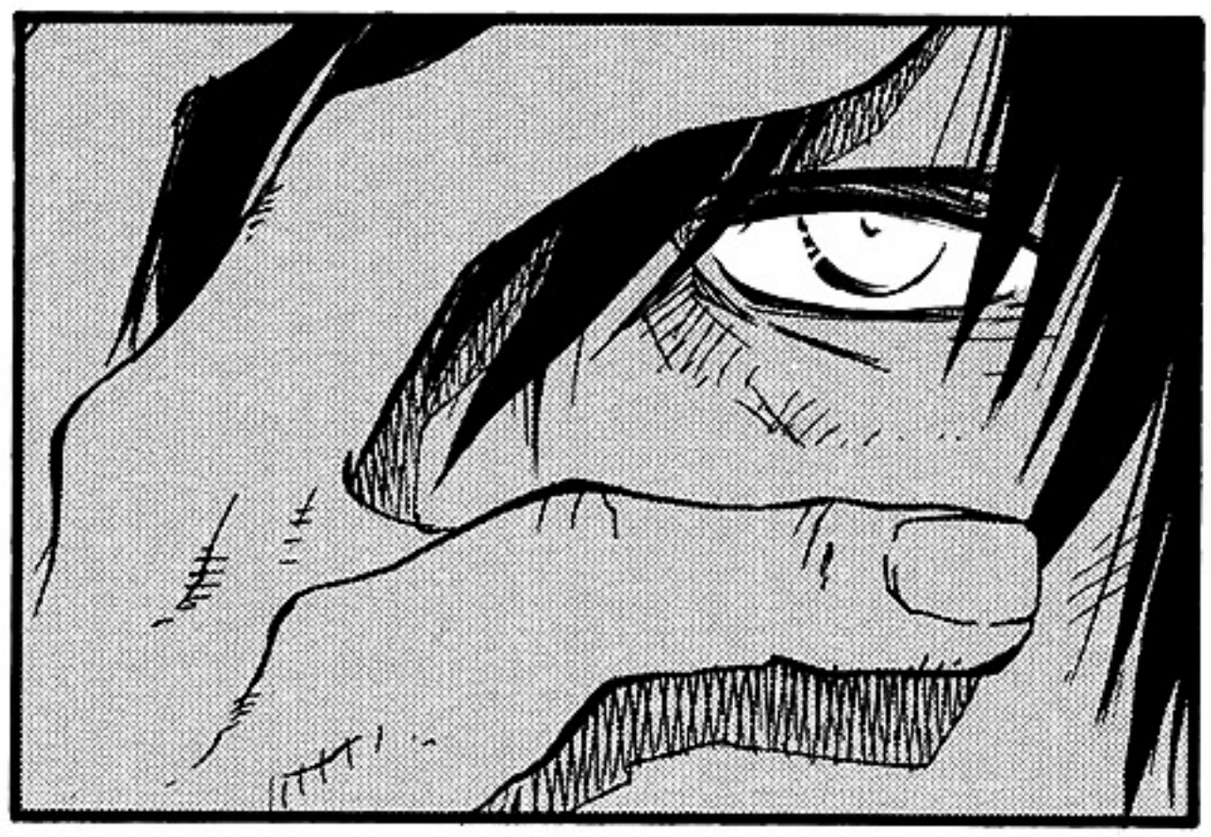


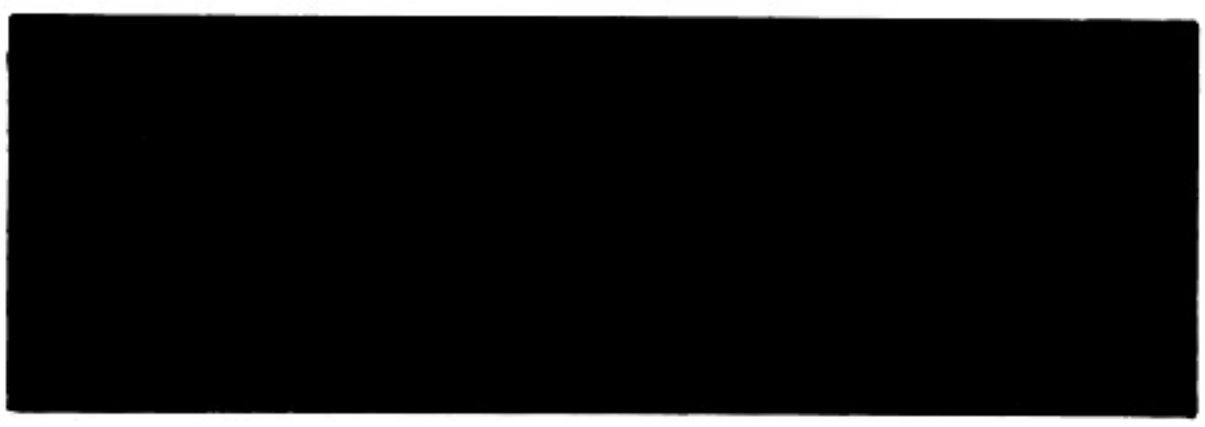

AUGMENTED MUSCLE MASS, INCREASED STRENGTH.
ENHANCED HEALING CAPABILITIES.
UNRIVALED SENSORY ABILITIES.
REINFORCED BONE STRUCTURE.

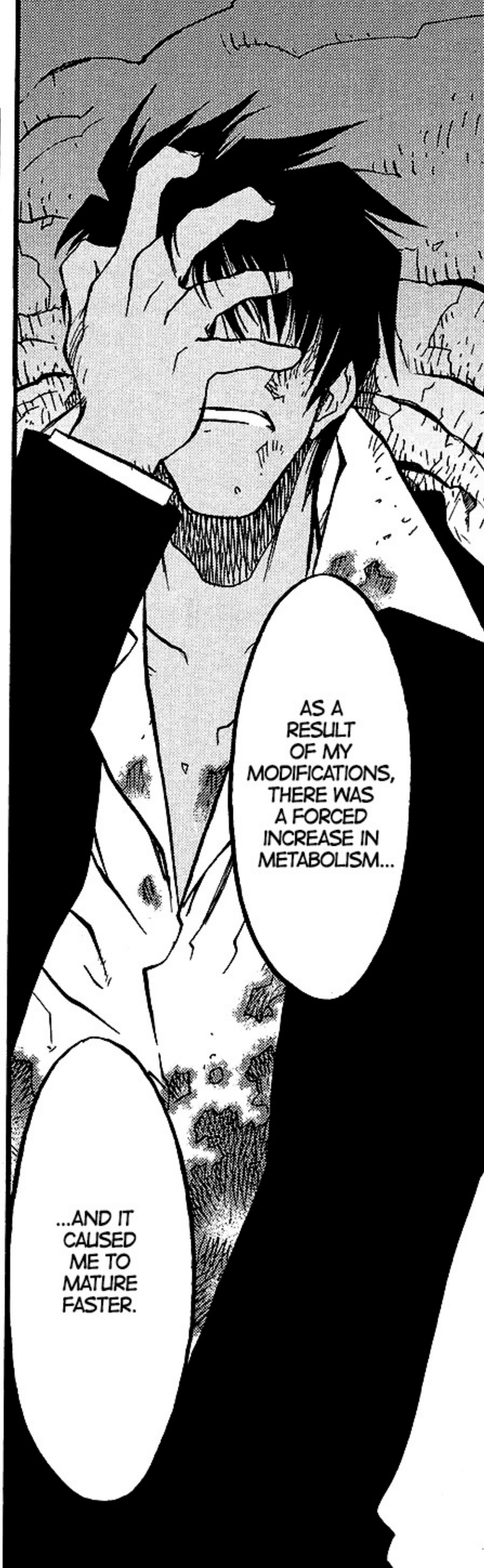
MY ENTIRE EXISTENCE WAS BASED ON THEIR DOCTRINE.



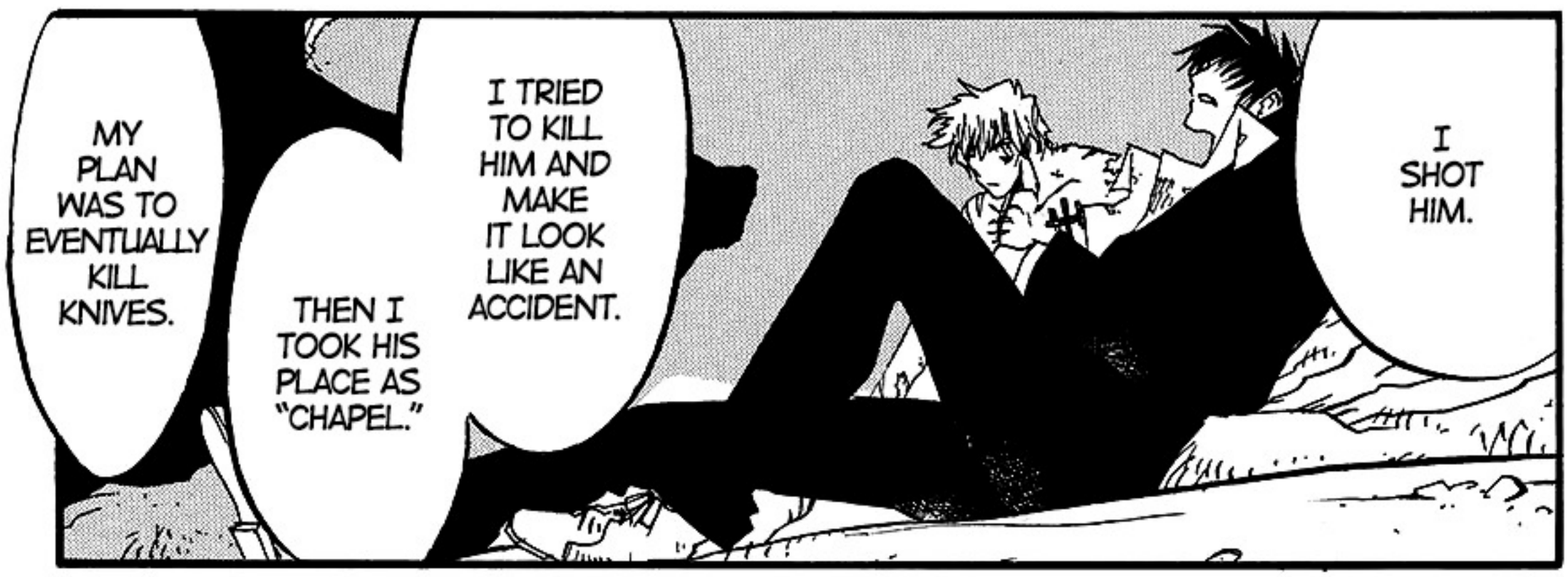

IF I SAW THE PEOPLE FROM THE ORPHANAGE AGAIN...
...I DOUBT THEY'D EVEN RECOGNIZE ME...





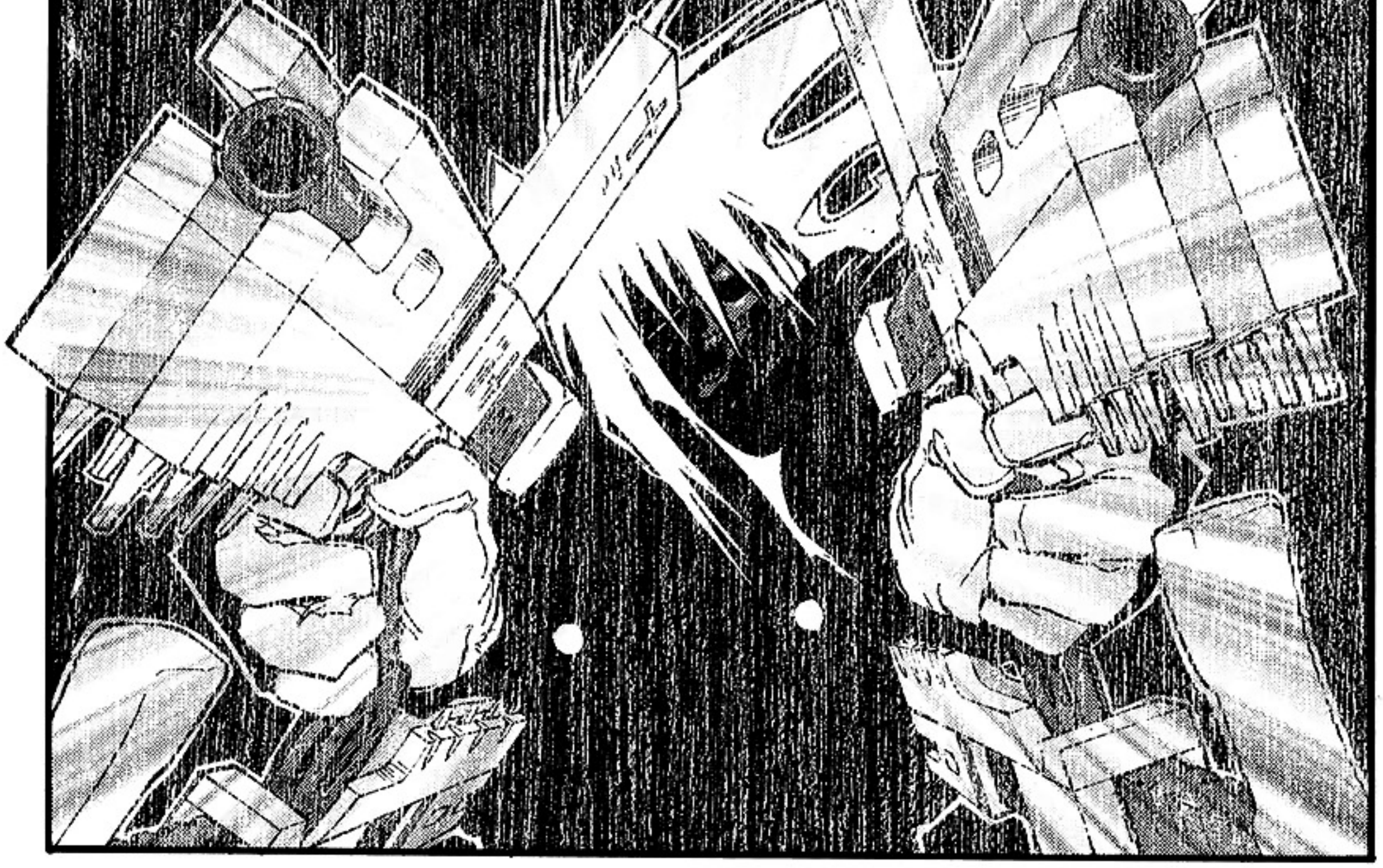

AS A RESULT OF MY MODIFICATIONS, THERE WAS A FORCED INCREASE IN METABOLISM...
...AND IT CAUSED ME TO MATURE FASTER.

...
...
WHY IS HE TRYING TO KILL YOU?
...HE'S ONE OF YOUR PEOPLE?
SO THAT OLD MAN...


MY PLAN WAS TO EVENTUALLY KILL KNIVES.
THEN I TOOK HIS PLACE AS "CHAPEL."
I TRIED TO KILL HIM AND MAKE IT LOOK LIKE AN ACCIDENT.
I SHOT HIM.

...
...

ALL TO MAKE SURE THERE WOULDN'T BE ANY MORE KIDS WHO'D END UP LIKE ME...



YET HE KEEPS MOVING...
...THROUGH HIS OWN NEVER ENDING HELL.
...
...

NEEDLE-NOGGIN...

...MY BODY TURNS *COLD.*

WHEN I POINT MY GUN AT HIM...

...THEN EVERYTHIN' I'VE DONE UP 'TIL NOW WILL HAVE BEEN FOR *NOTHIN'.*

IF YA DON'T STOP KNIVES...

PLEASE, NEEDLE-NOGGIN...

!!

WOLF-WOOD!

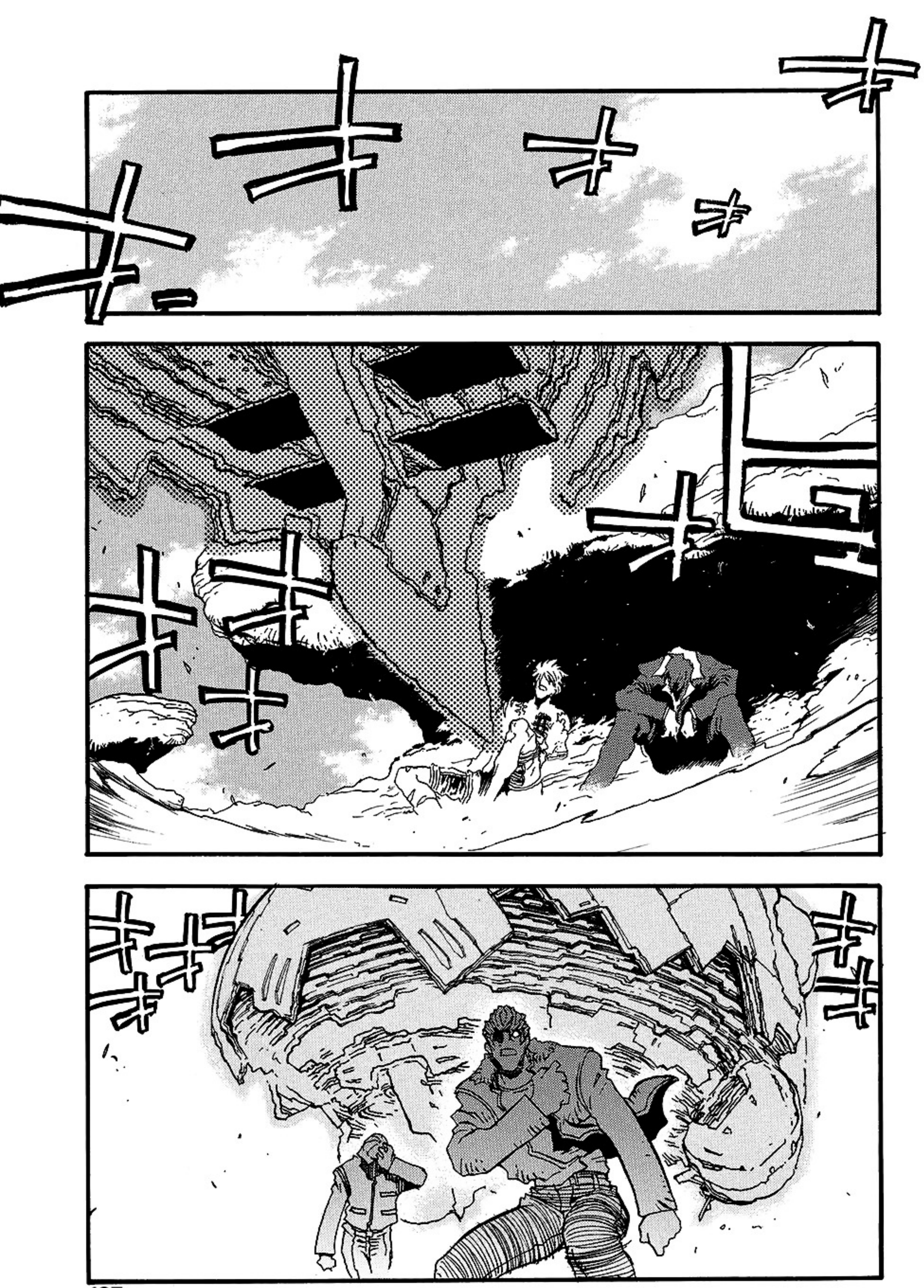
HEY!

WOLF-WOOD?

?!

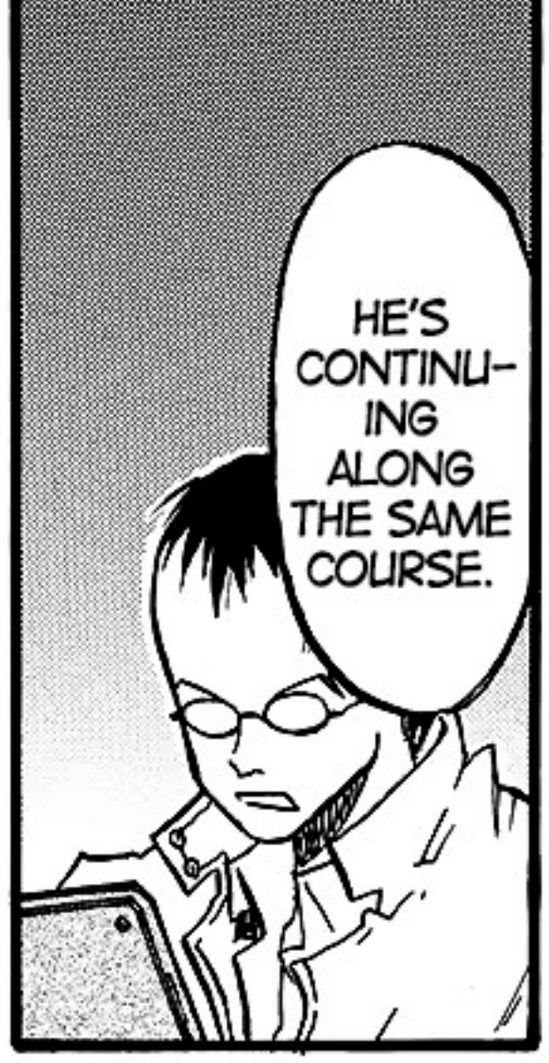
PLEASE...

DON'T DIE ON ME!
I'M TRYIN' TO SLEEP HERE!



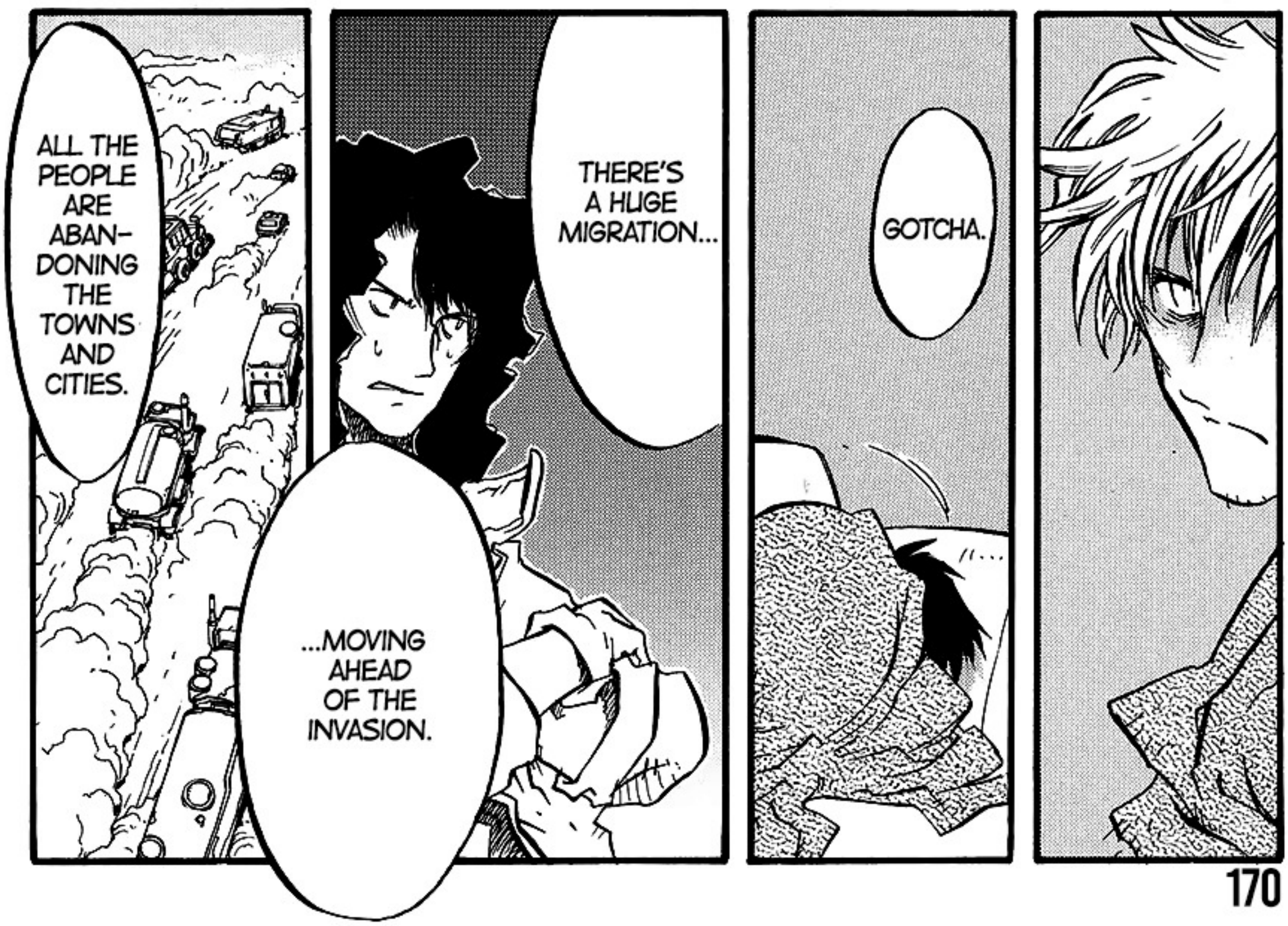
BESIDES, WE DON'T HAVE MUCH TIME.
DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT.
I KNOW YOU'RE NOT LIKE A NORMAL HUMAN, BUT STILL...
I DON'T GET IT.

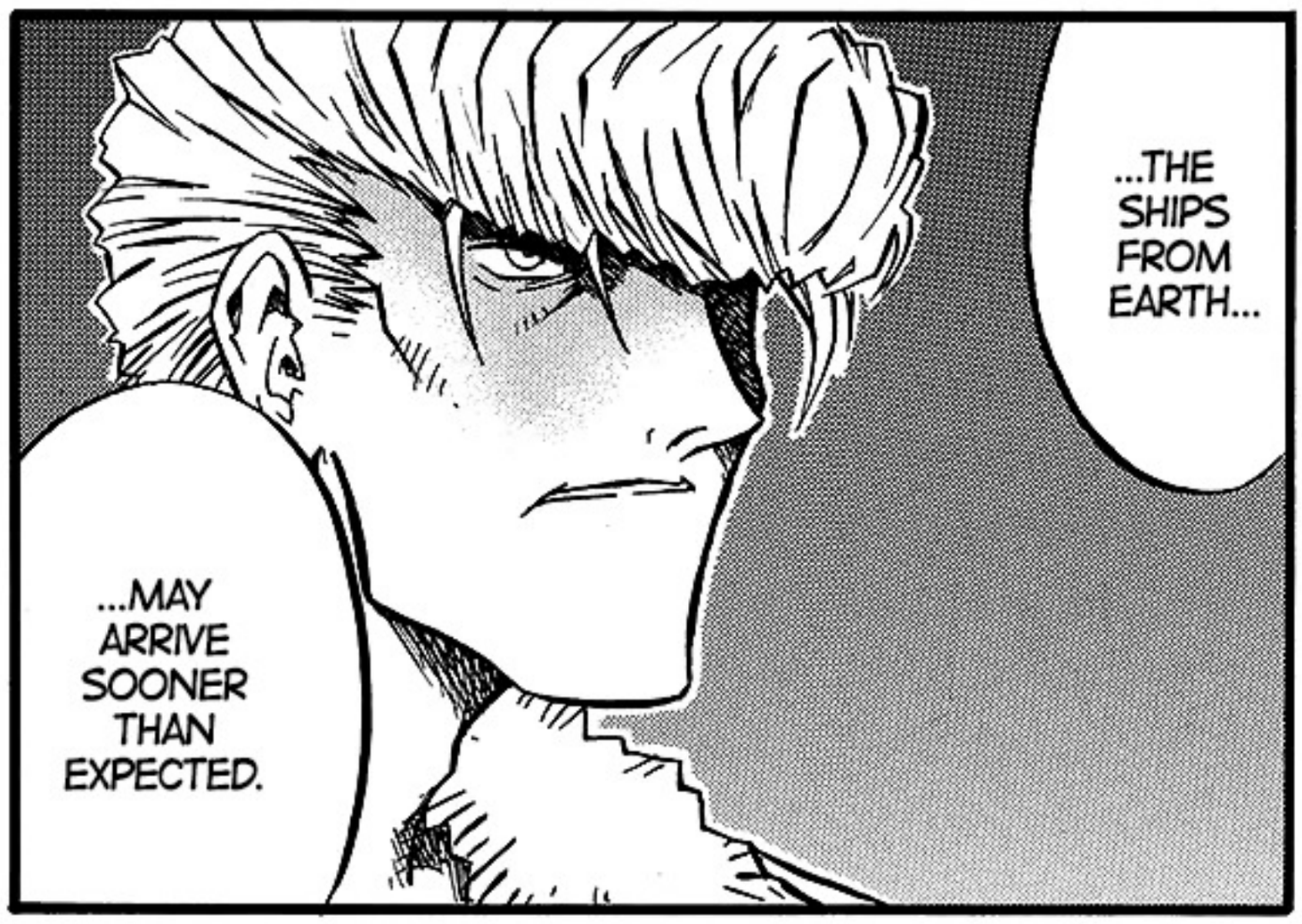
WE COULD CLEARLY SEE THE PLANTS UNDERNEATH THE STRIPPED ARMOR, AND THEIR SHINE IS FADING.
TURNS OUT OUR RECENT ATTACK...
...HAS SLOWED DOWN THE ARK'S MOVEMENT.
...KNIVES HAS BEEN AFFECTED BY THE COLLECTED CONSCIOUSNESS OF THE MERGED PLANTS.
I THINK...
HEY!
FOR ONE MO-MENT...
...I FELT WHAT HE WAS FEELING... I FELT HIS TRUE SELF BEING ABSORBED.


HE'S CONTINU-ING ALONG THE SAME COURSE.

WHERE'S KNIVES NOW?

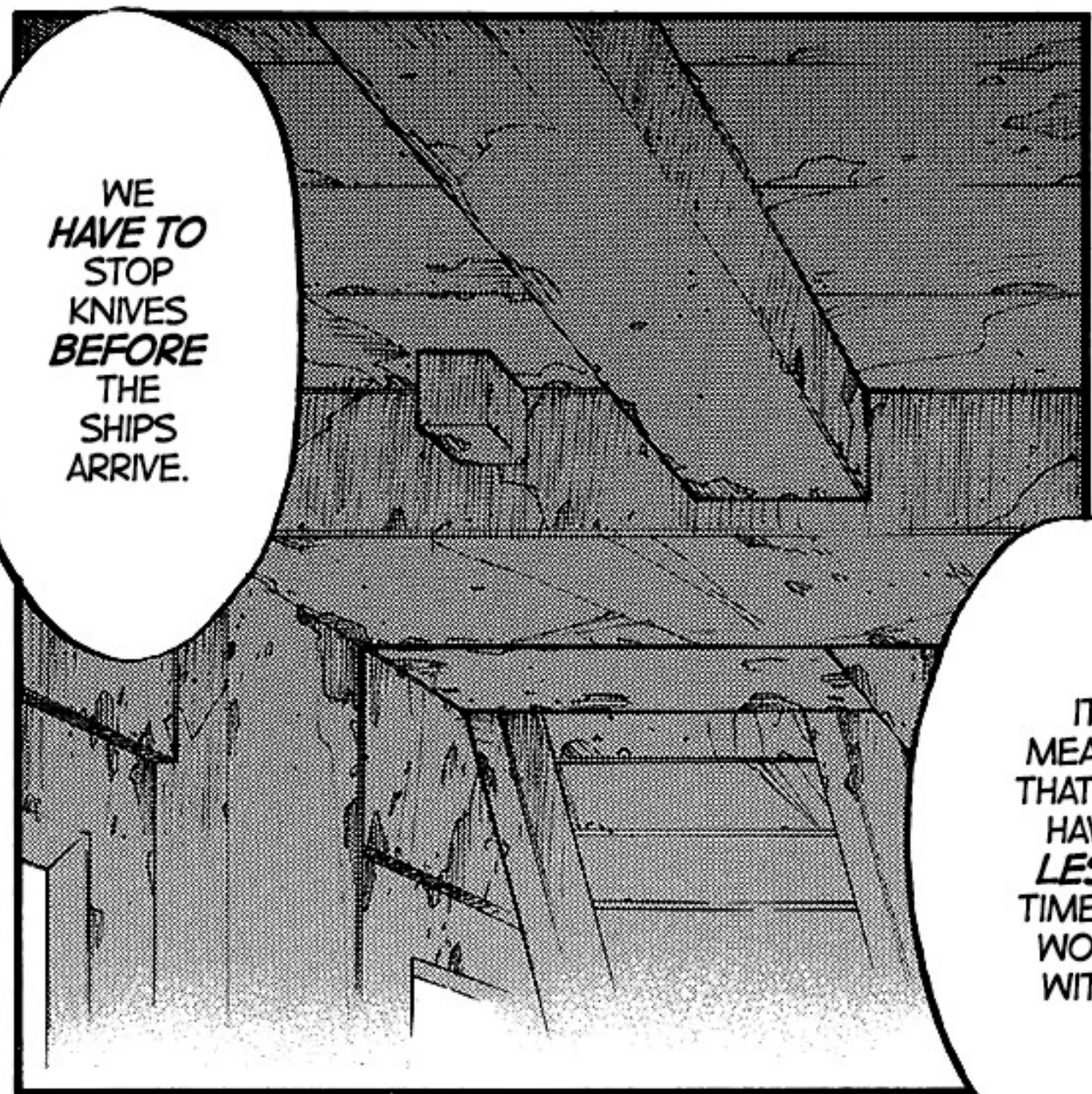
...AND IS HEADED TOWARDS EAST DECEMBER.
...
...
HE'S PASSED CARCASSES...


ALL THE PEOPLE ARE ABAN-DONING THE TOWNS AND CITIES.
THERE'S A HUGE MIGRATION...
...MOVING AHEAD OF THE INVASION.
GOTCHA.

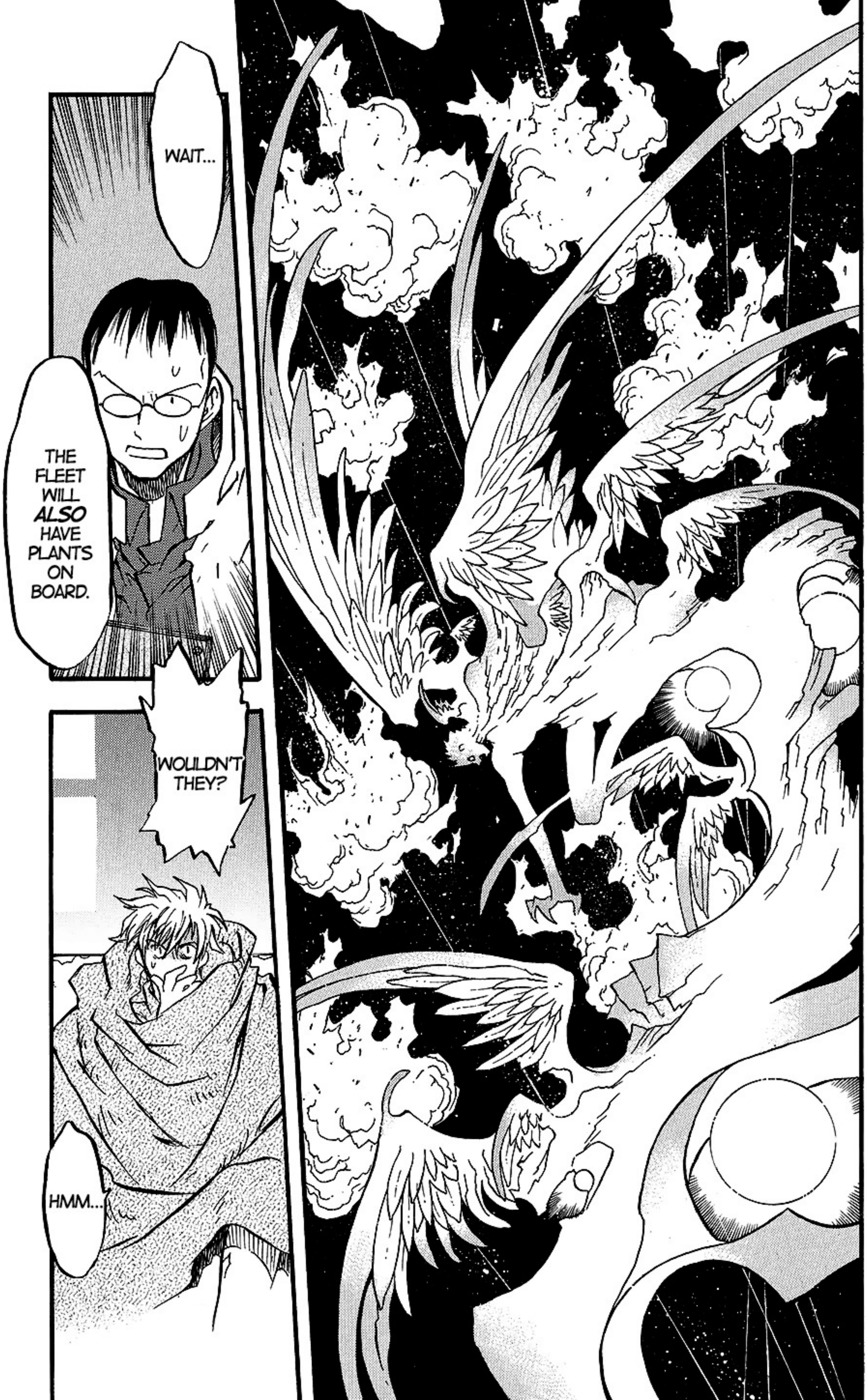

...THE SHIPS FROM EARTH...
...MAY ARRIVE SOONER THAN EXPECTED.

ONE MORE THING.
ACCORD-ING TO OUR MOST RECENT CALCULA-TIONS...

YEAH.
REALLY?!
...!


WE *HAVE TO* STOP KNIVES *BEFORE* THE SHIPS ARRIVE.

BUT THIS *IS NOT* ENTIRELY GOOD NEWS.
IT MEANS THAT WE HAVE *LESS* TIME TO WORK WITH.


WAIT...
THE FLEET WILL *ALSO* HAVE PLANTS ON BOARD.
WOULDN'T THEY?
HMM...

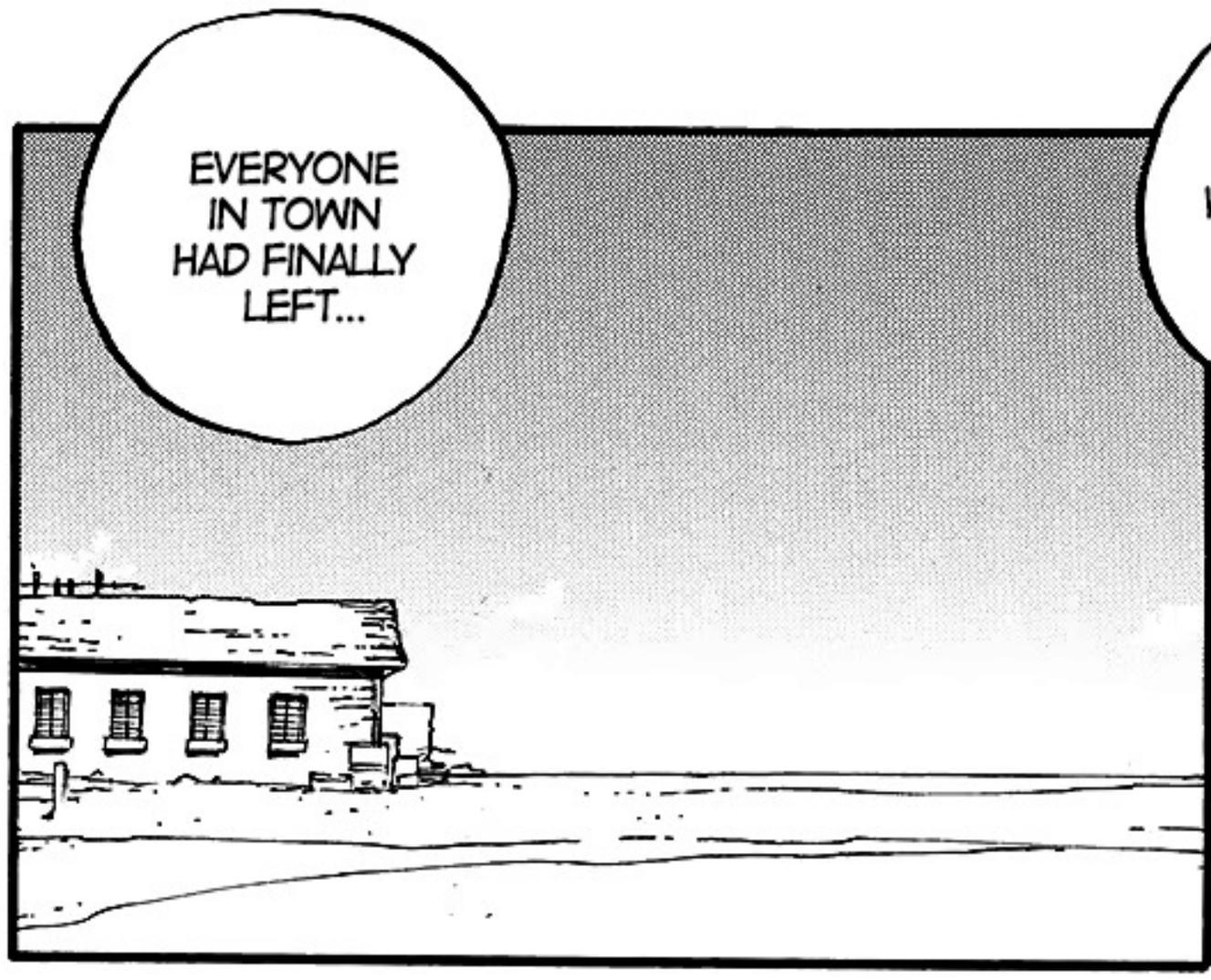
IF HE SENDS THEM FAR ENOUGH WITHOUT WORRYING ABOUT DEGRADA-TION...

HIS FEELERS CAN REACH FAR BEYOND THE STRATO-SPHERE...

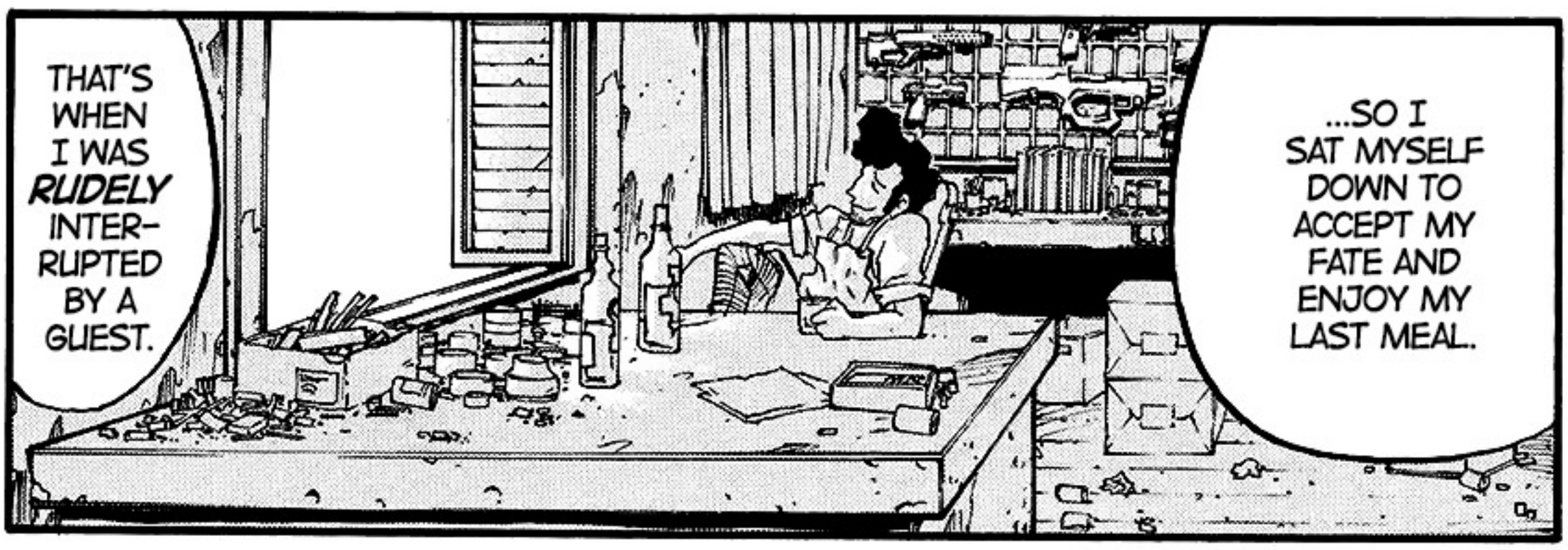
...AND PERFORM INTRICATE OPERA-TIONS.

IT'S ENTIRELY POSSIBLE FOR KNIVES.

MAR-LON?!
WELL, WELL ...
LOOKS LIKE YER STILL ALIVE AFTER ALL, YA TUMBLE-WEED!
?!


EVERYONE IN TOWN HAD FINALLY LEFT...

WELL...
THAT'S WHAT I WAS GONNA SAY ABOUT YOU!
HOW HAVE YOU BEEN?!


THAT'S WHEN I WAS *RUDELY* INTER-RUPTED BY A GUEST.
...SO I SAT MYSELF DOWN TO ACCEPT MY FATE AND ENJOY MY LAST MEAL.

BUT SHE WOULDN'T LISTEN.

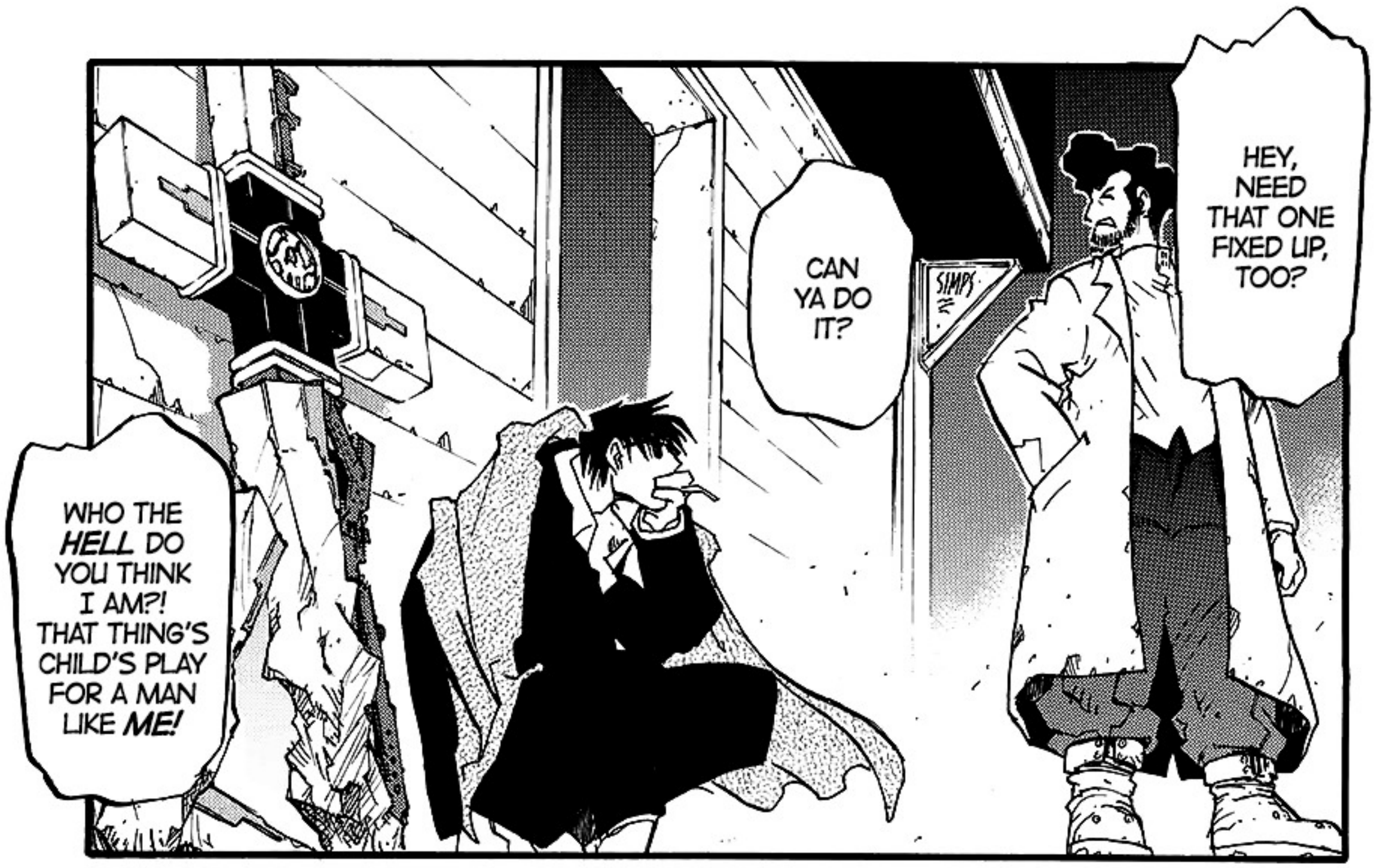
I TOLD HER, SHE'S GOTTA BE KIDDIN', WITH THE CURRENT STATE OF THE WORLD, THAT DUMB-ASS HAS GOTTA BE *DEAD!*

AND TO TOP IT ALL OFF, SHE HAD THE *NERVE* TO TELL ME TO MAKE YOU ANOTHER FREAKIN' *GUN!*

TAKE IT.

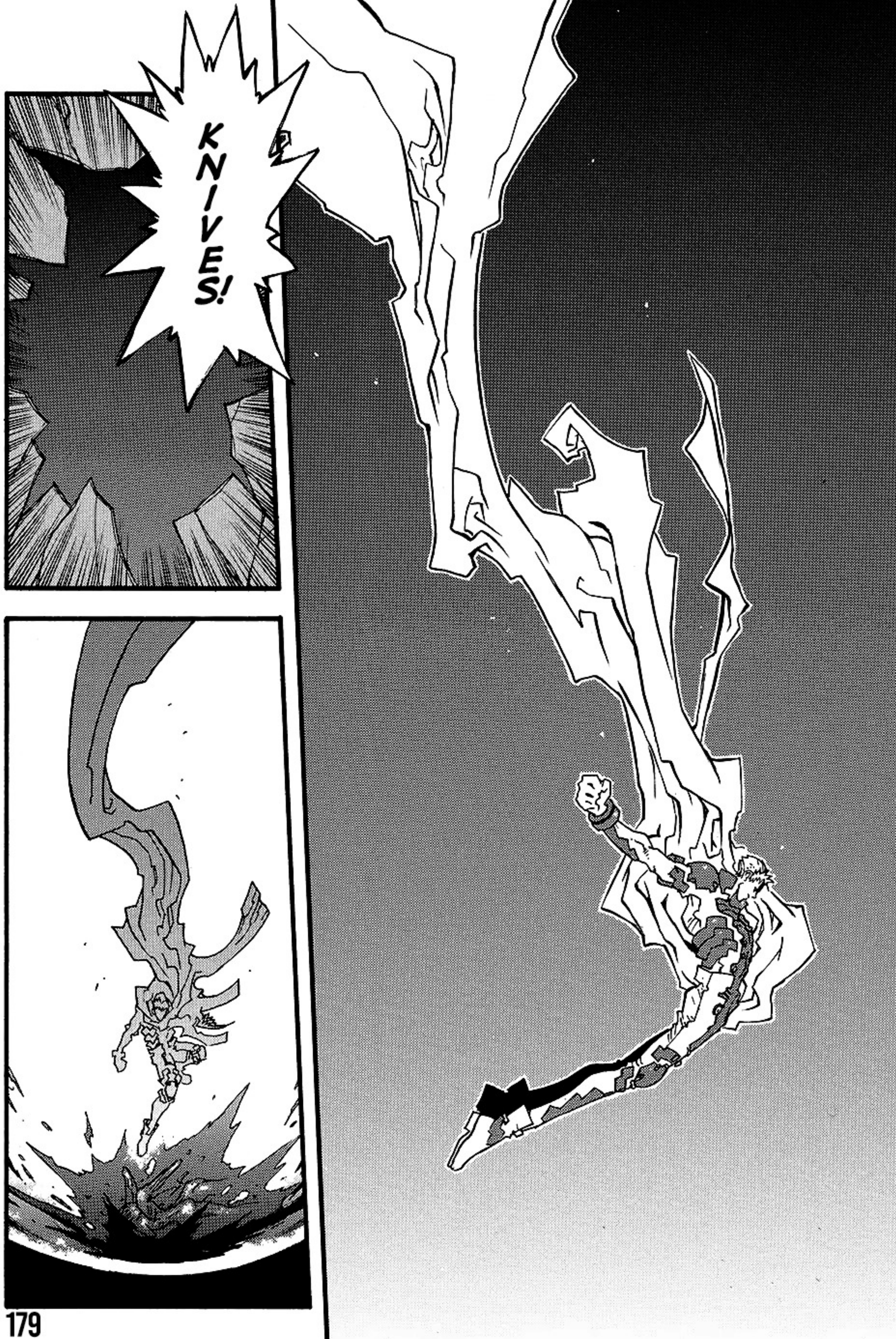
BUT...

...TURNS OUT THAT WOMAN WAS RIGHT IN THE END.


WHO THE *HELL* DO YOU THINK I AM?! THAT THING'S CHILD'S PLAY FOR A MAN LIKE *ME!*
CAN YA DO IT?
SIMPS
HEY, NEED THAT ONE FIXED UP, TOO?

GIMME TWO DAYS AND IT'LL BE LIKE NEW!

MASTER KNIVES, PLEASE STOP!
THE DISGUSTING STENCH OF ROT HAS REACHED ALL THE WAY UP HERE!
IT'S DEFILING YOUR BODY!


KNIVES!

THIS COLOR...
THIS SMELL...
THIS FEELING...

FAREWELL...

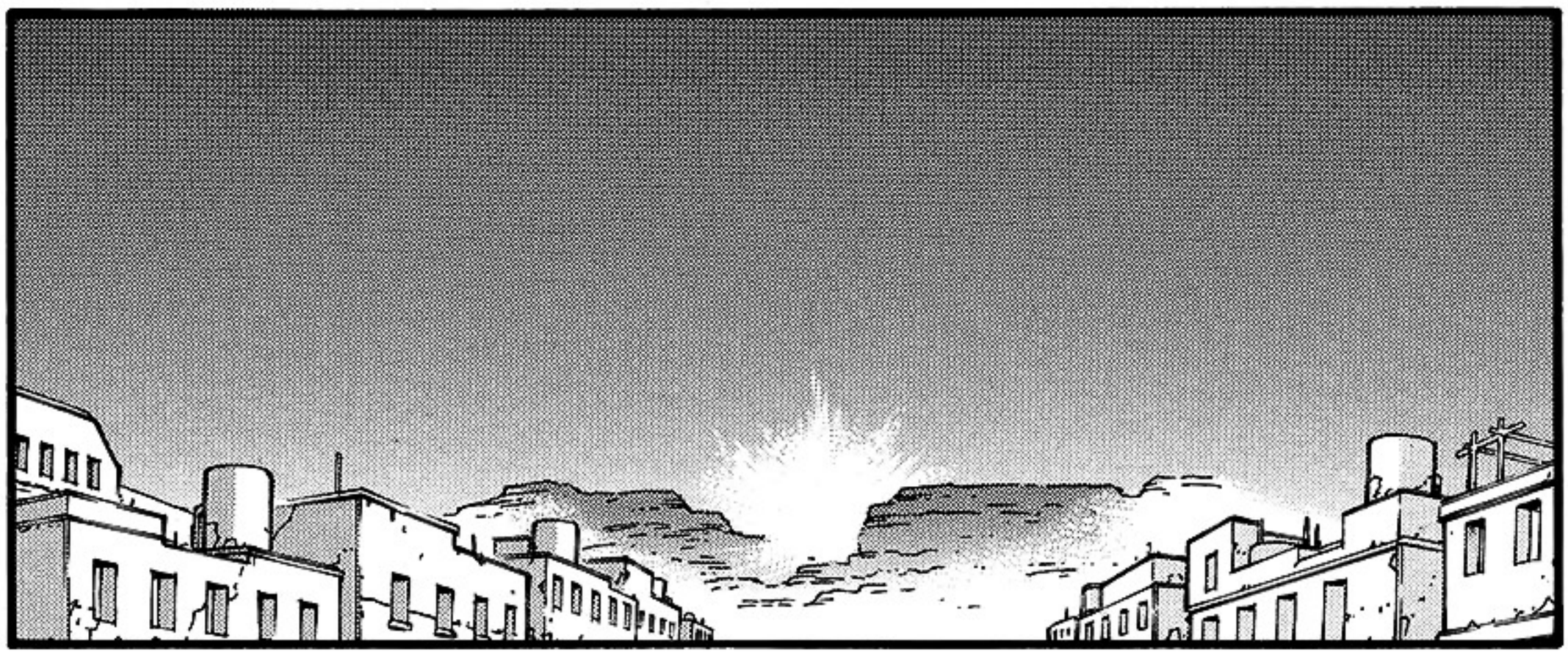
...MY BROTHER...

I WILL DO THIS AGAIN AND AGAIN UNTIL YOU ARE GONE.

SINK DEEP...

...INTO THE DEPTHS OF MY HEART.

SO THAT, FROM THIS POINT ON, I WILL *NEVER* AGAIN WAVER.



'TIL NEXT TIME, NEEDLE-NOGGIN...

#05. PARTING WAYS / END

TURN TO THE NEXT

TRIGUN MAXIMUM
YASUHIRO NIGHTOW

TRIGUN MAXIMUM

YASUHIRO NIGHTOW

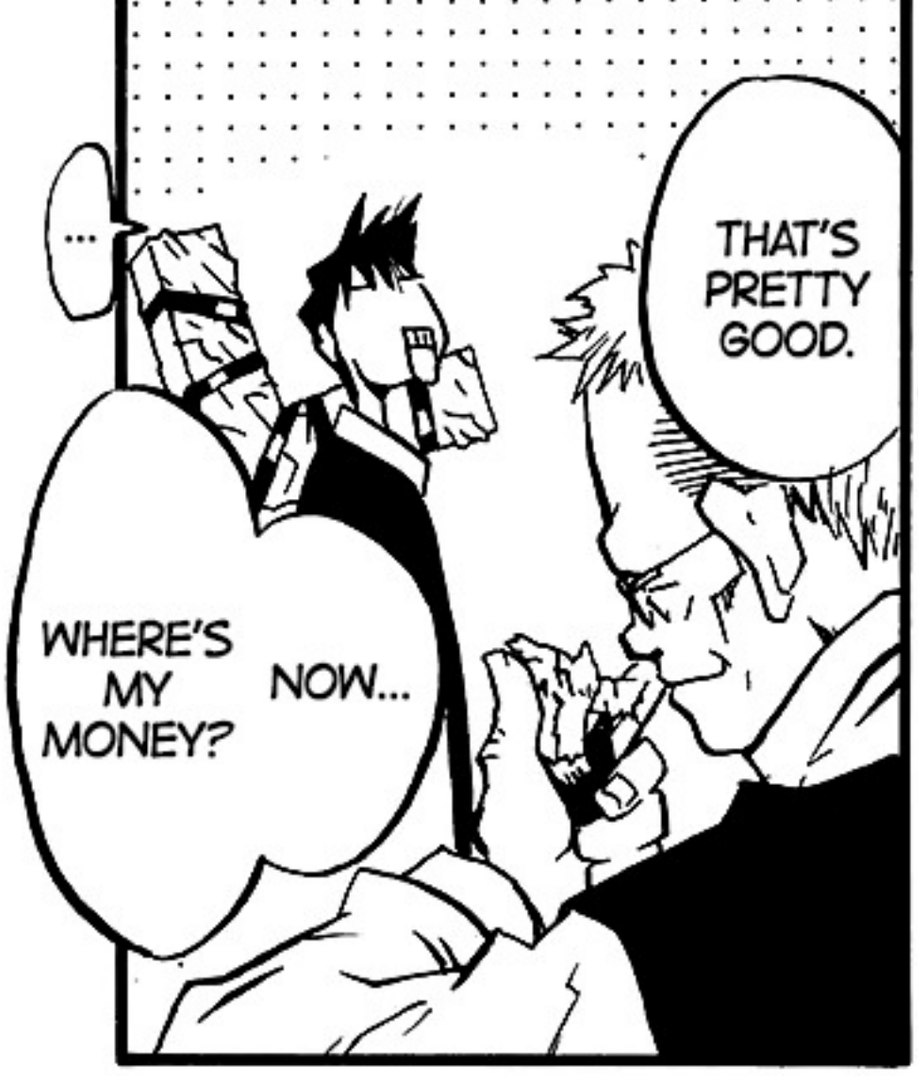
DEEP SPACE PLANET FUTURE GUN ACTION!!

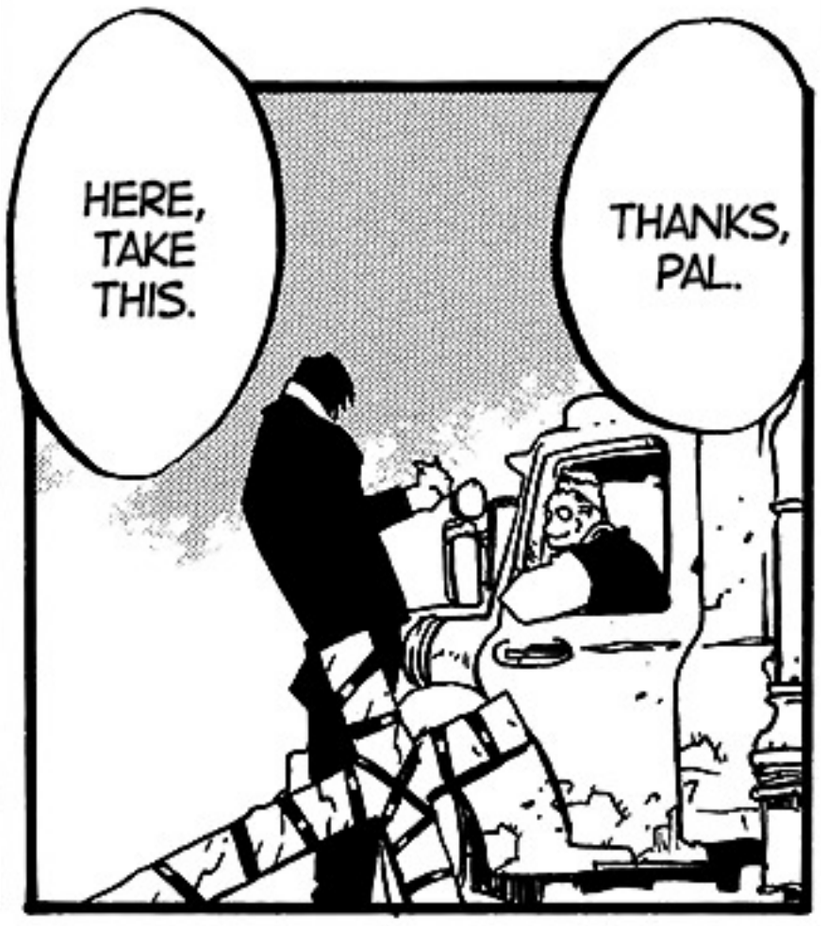
WOLFWOOD SPINOFF

—

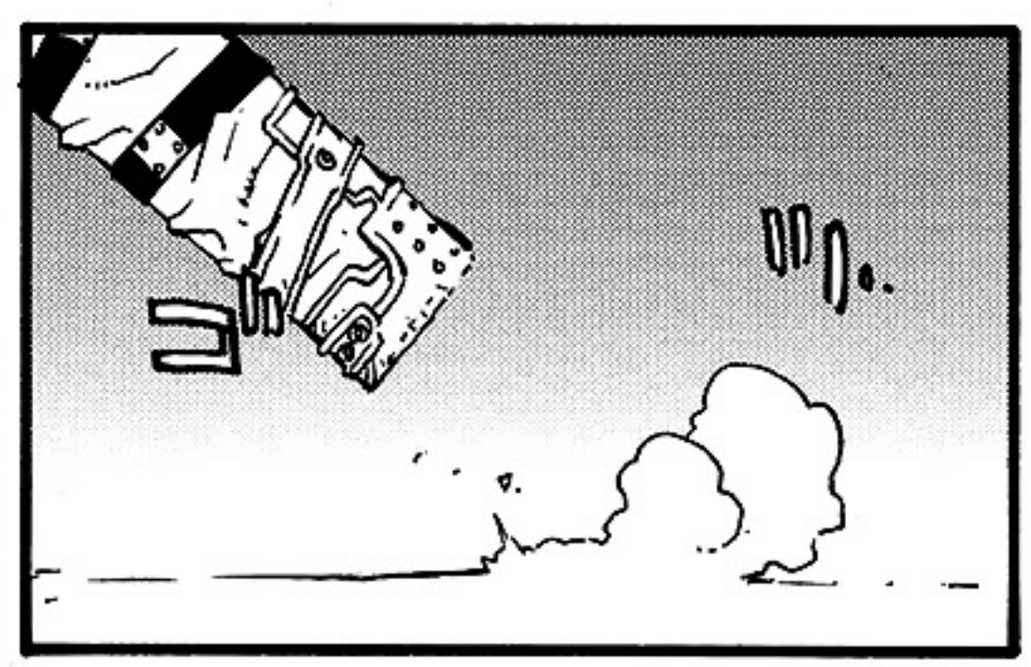
FREED BIRD

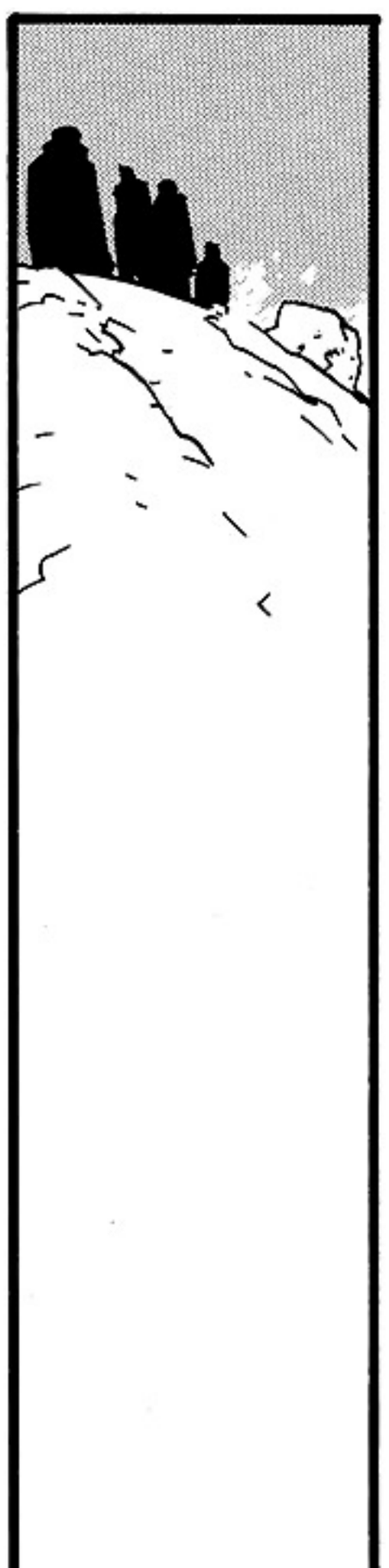
...AND FEEL LONGIN'.
...WE LOOK UP AT THEM...
BUT THEY MAY LOOK DOWN AT US...
US HUMANS...
...AND ENVY HOW WE HAVE EARTH AND SHADE TO ESCAPE THE PAIN OF ENDLESSLY FLAPPIN' YER WINGS TO SURVIVE.


...
THAT'S PRETTY GOOD.
WHERE'S MY MONEY?
NOW...


HERE, TAKE THIS.
THANKS, PAL.

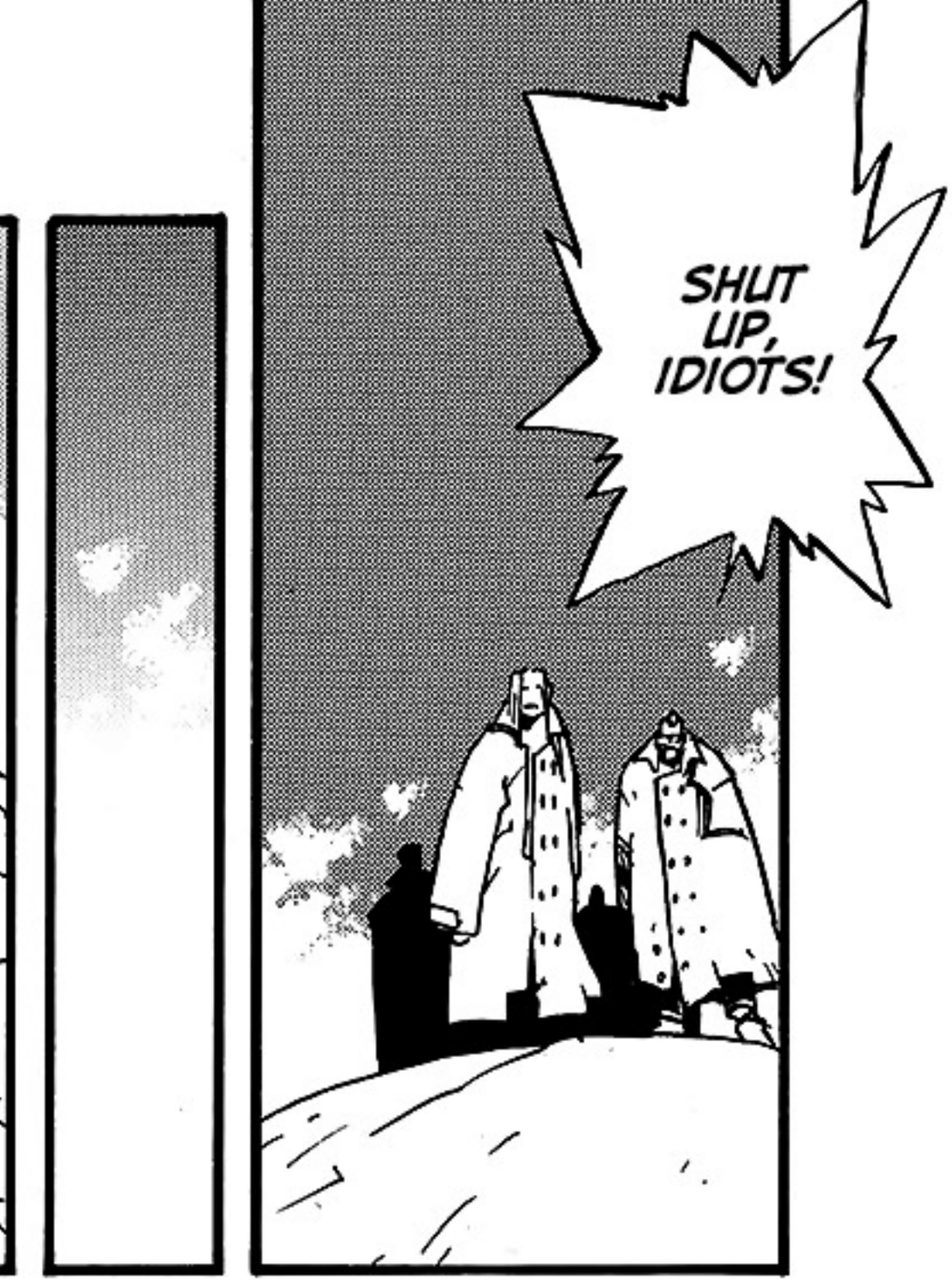
...
...
WE'RE HERE.

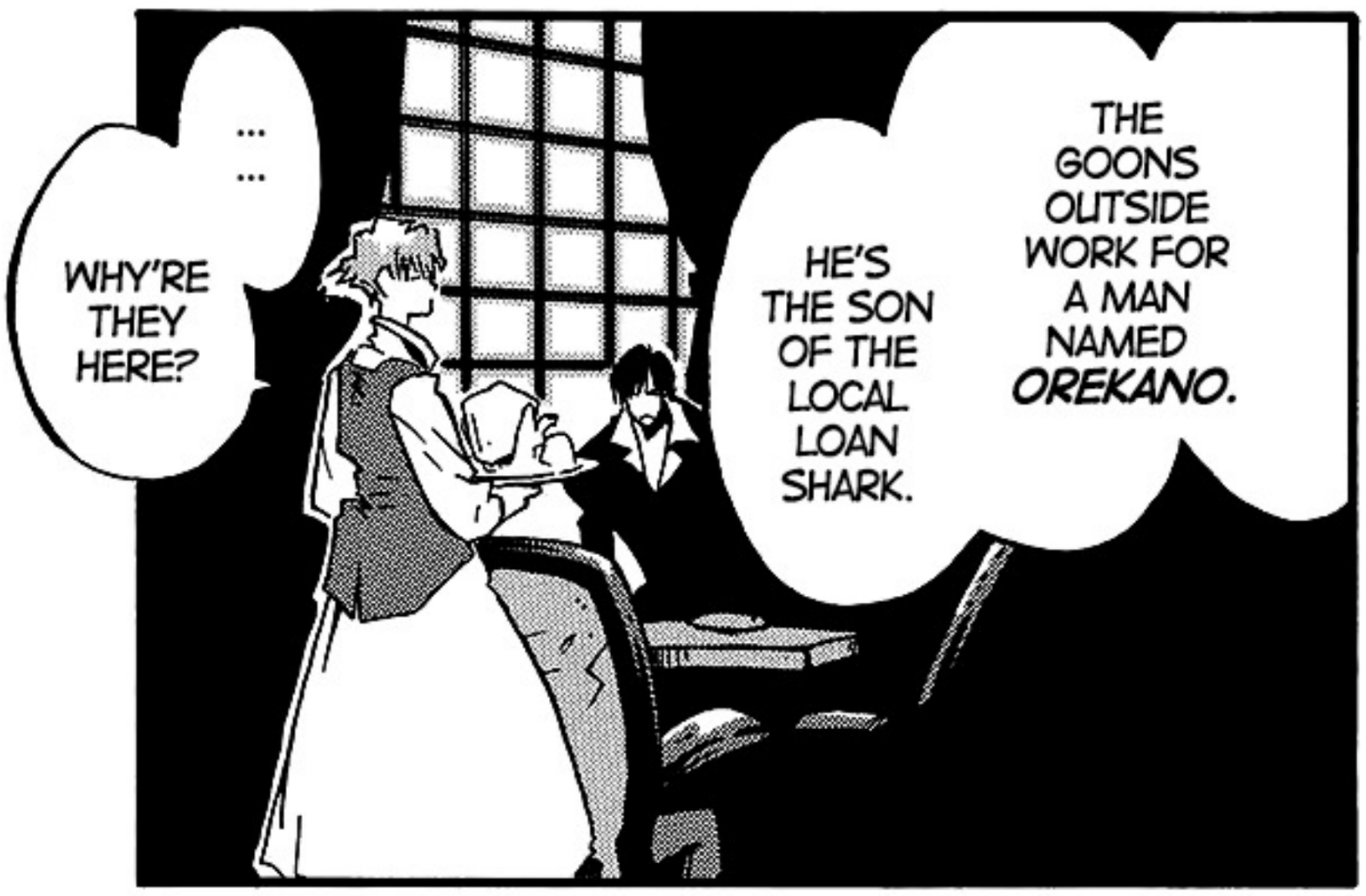




NOW, BEAT IT.
THERE'S NOTHING HERE BUT AN OLD, DERELICT HOUSE. THE SALOONS ARE THE OTHER WAY.
THAT'S A LITTLE TOO MUCH FIREPOWER FOR A FRIENDLY GREETIN'.
THE HELL'S THIS?
I HAVE BUSINESS AT THAT HOUSE.
ARE YOU THE PRIEST?
LISTEN, STRANGER...
...WE CAN HANDLE THIS WITHOUT THE TALK IF YOU WANT TO.

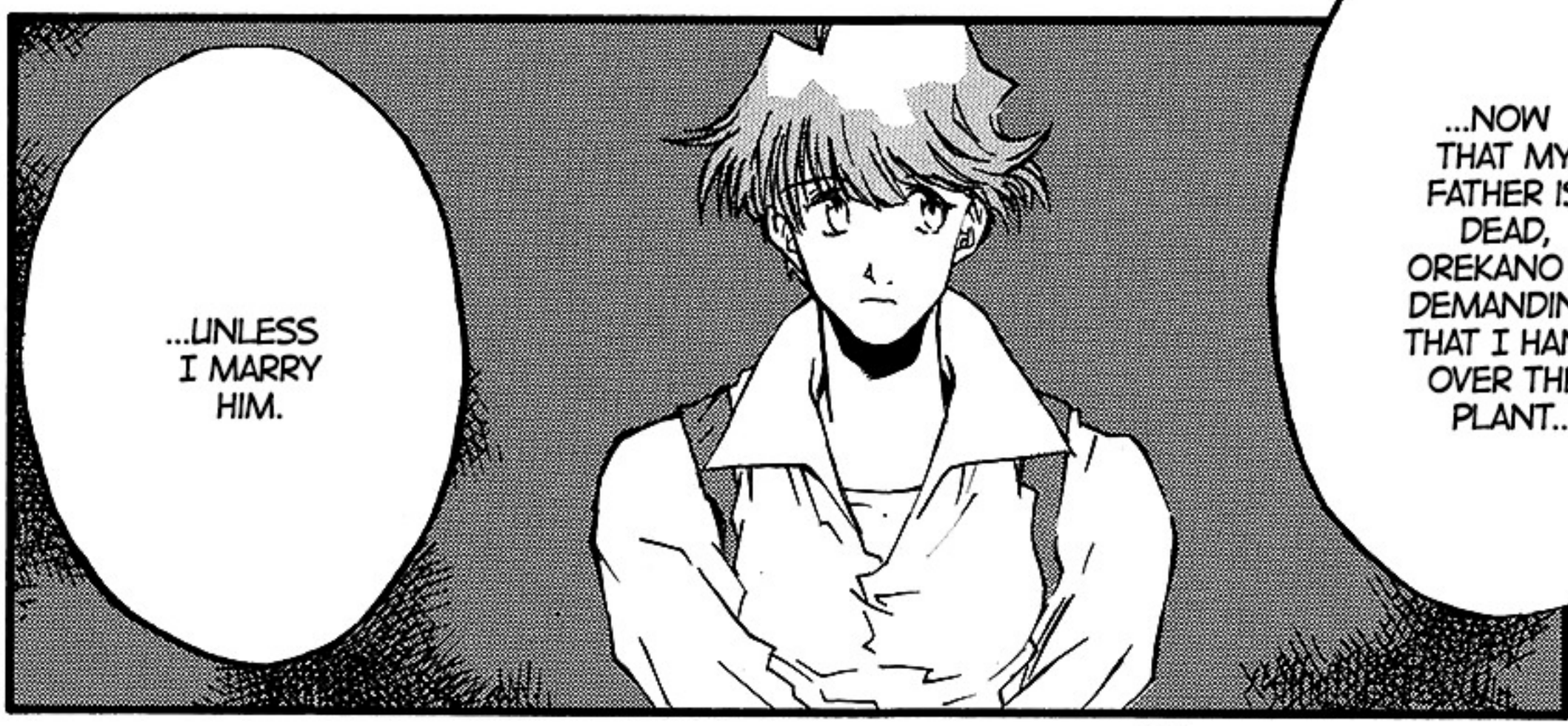
YOU MUST BE. YOU'RE CARRYING THAT CROSS.
A PRIEST?!
UH...
YEAH...
I'M SORRY I KEPT YOU WAITING. MY NAME IS MAYLENE.
I HAVEN'T EVEN ANSWERED YET...
WHY NOT?!
MAYLENE, YOU CAN'T LET THIS MAN INTO THE HOUSE, OUR BOSS--
BET I COULD CONDUCT A BETTER SERVICE THAN HIM!
WITH SOME CHEAP TRAVELING PRIEST?
I'M HAVING A SERVICE FOR MY FATHER.


SHUT UP, IDIOTS!

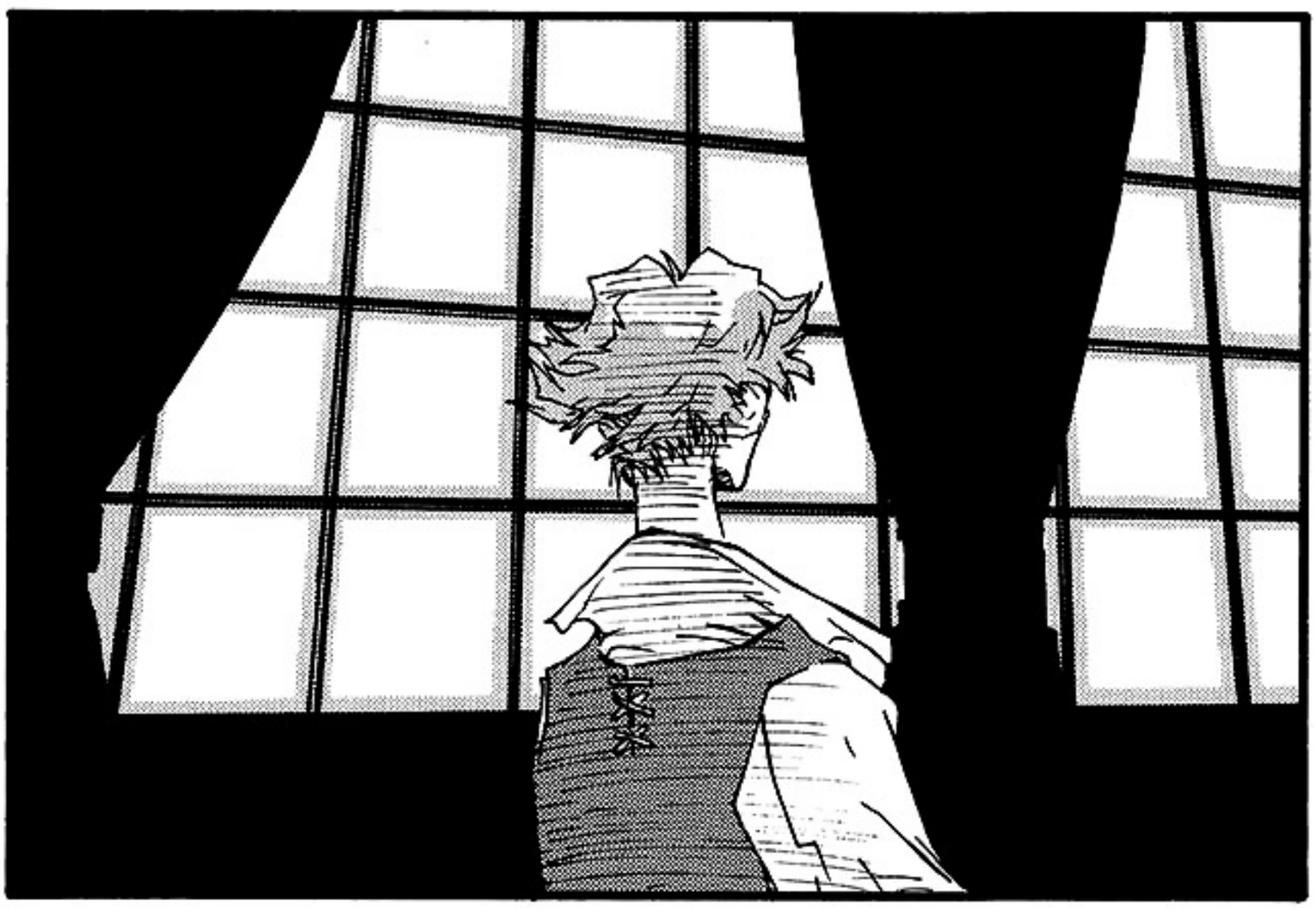

... ...
WHY'RE THEY HERE?
HE'S THE SON OF THE LOCAL LOAN SHARK.
THE GOONS OUTSIDE WORK FOR A MAN NAMED *OREKANO*.

I APOLOGIZE ABOUT THEM.
YOU MUST BE ANGRY.
NAW.

I LIVED HERE ALONE WITH MY FATHER, THE MAN WHO YOU WILL PERFORM THE SERVICE FOR.
HE WAS BARELY UPPER CLASS, AND WE COULD ONLY LIVE COMFORTABLY BECAUSE WE HAD A PLANT.
LOOKS LIKE THEY'RE GUARDIN' SOMETHIN'.
IT'S ME.
WE WERE FORCED TO TAKE AN ENORMOUS LOAN FROM THE LOAN SHARK TO PAY FOR THE TREATMENT.
THEN ONE DAY, THE PLANT FELL DEATHLY ILL.
SO YOU WERE...
NOTHING AS SIMPLE AS THAT.
THE AMOUNT COULDN'T BE COVERED WITH A SINGLE WOMAN.
BUT...


...NOW THAT MY FATHER IS DEAD, OREKANO IS DEMANDING THAT I HAND OVER THE PLANT...
...UNLESS I MARRY HIM.

WELL, CON-GRATU-LATIONS.



...DEPENDED ON OTHERS FOR SURVIVAL.
I'VE ALWAYS...

I...
...USED TO BE AN ORPHAN.

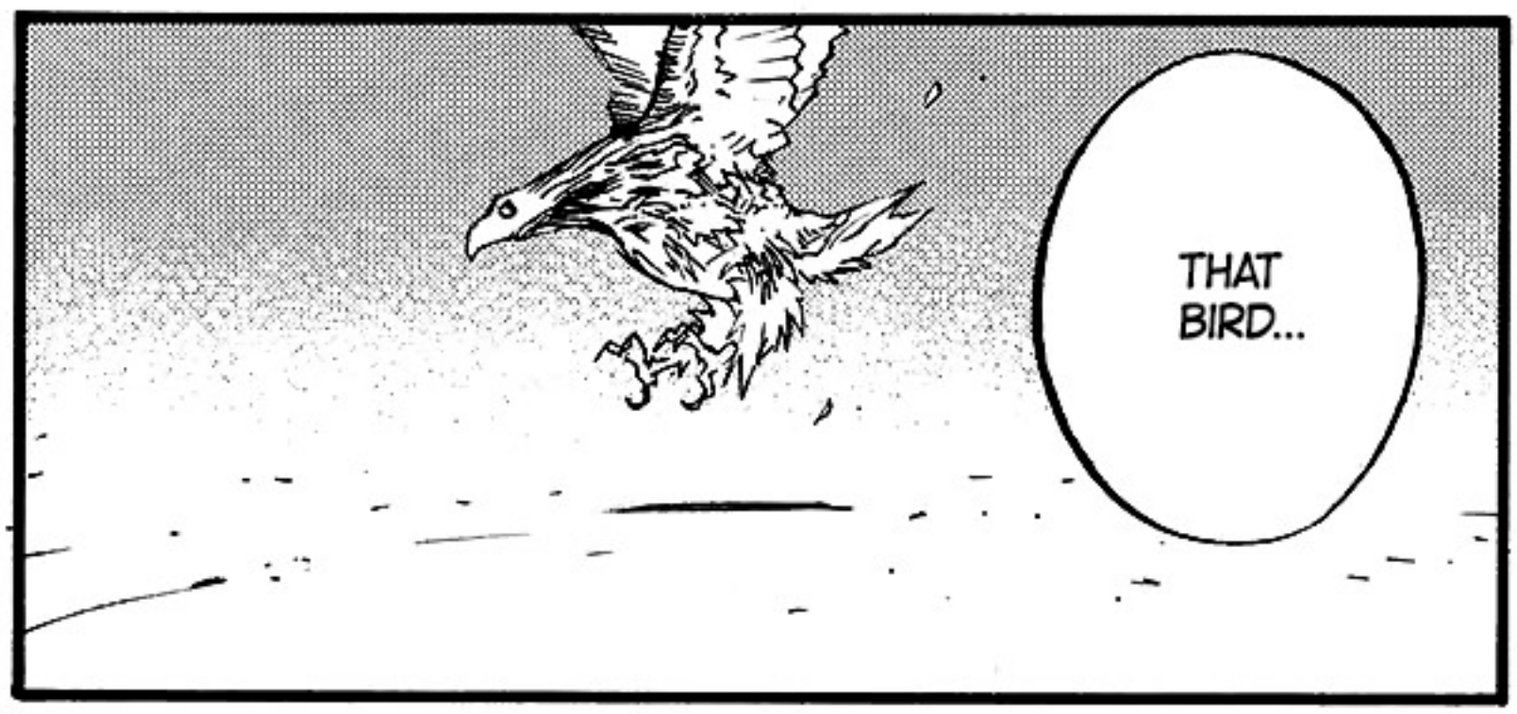
MR. PRIEST...

...HOW DOES THE WORLD LOOK...
...WHEN YOU ARE ABLE TO CHOOSE YOUR *OWN* PATH?

LOOK OVER THERE.

KNOCK IT OFF.

...IT'S IN TERRIBLE SHAPE.


THAT BIRD...

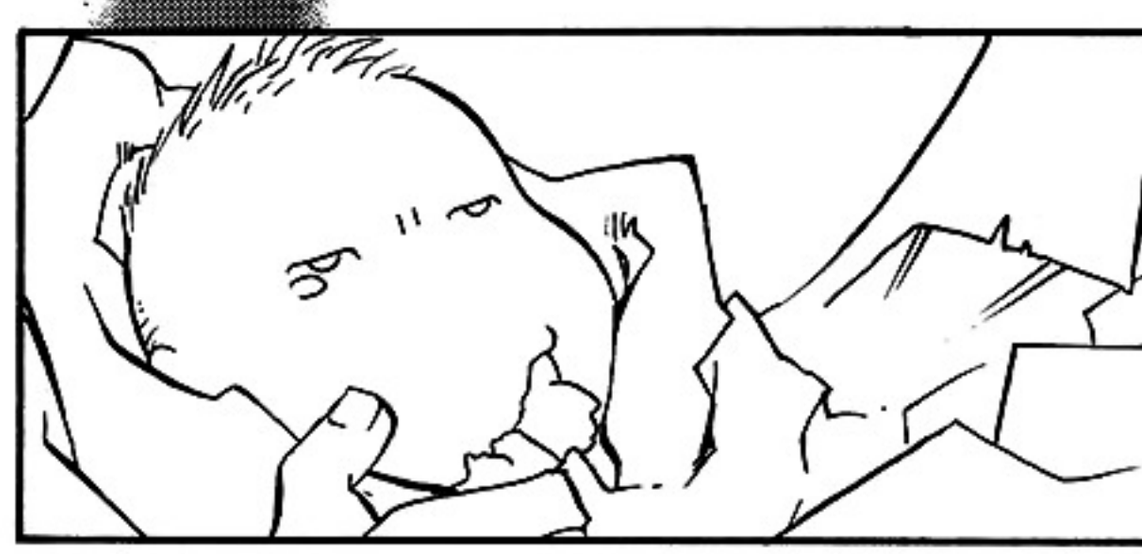
YOU'D KNOW JUST HOW MUCH IT WOULD ENVY...
...YER LUXURIOUS CAGE.

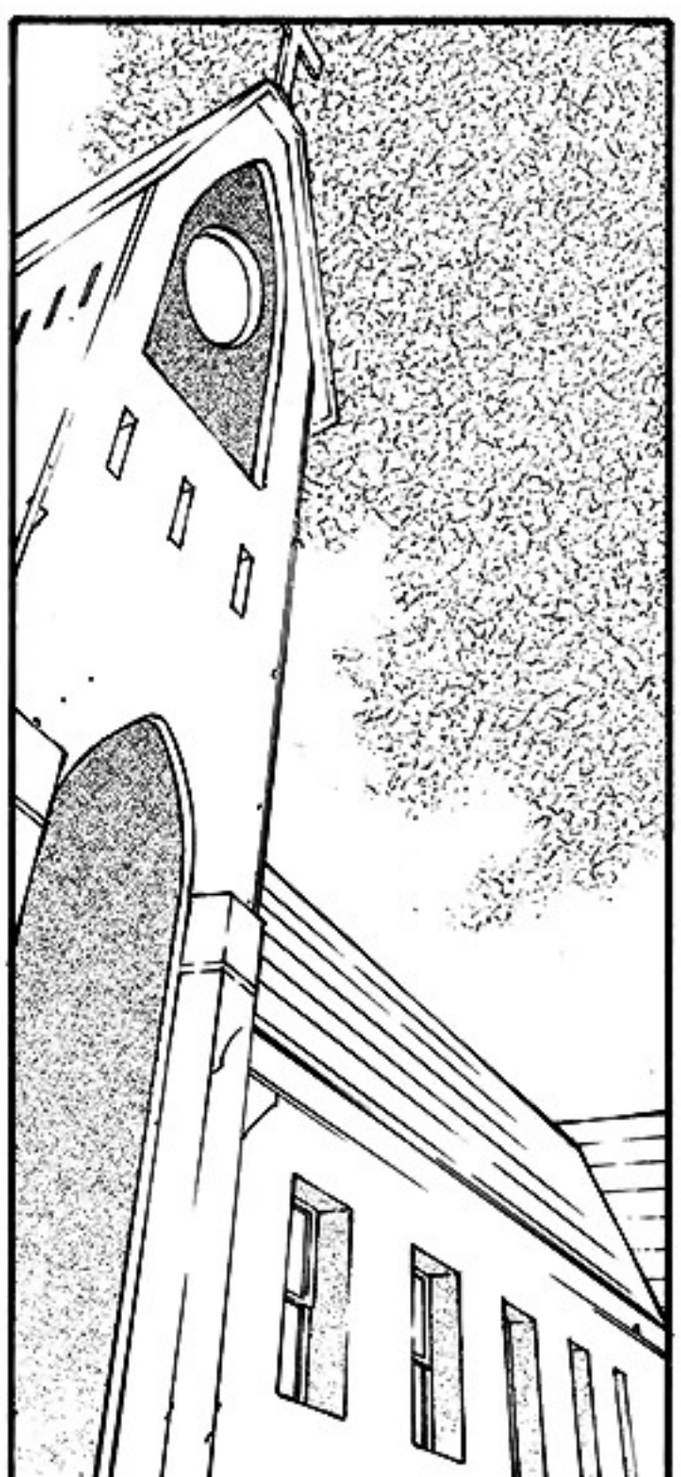
IF YOU COULD LOOK INTO ITS HEART...
...YOU'D KNOW ALL IT WANTS IS A SAFE PLACE TO SLEEP, A FEW SCRAPS OF FOOD, AND A LIFE OF PEACE.

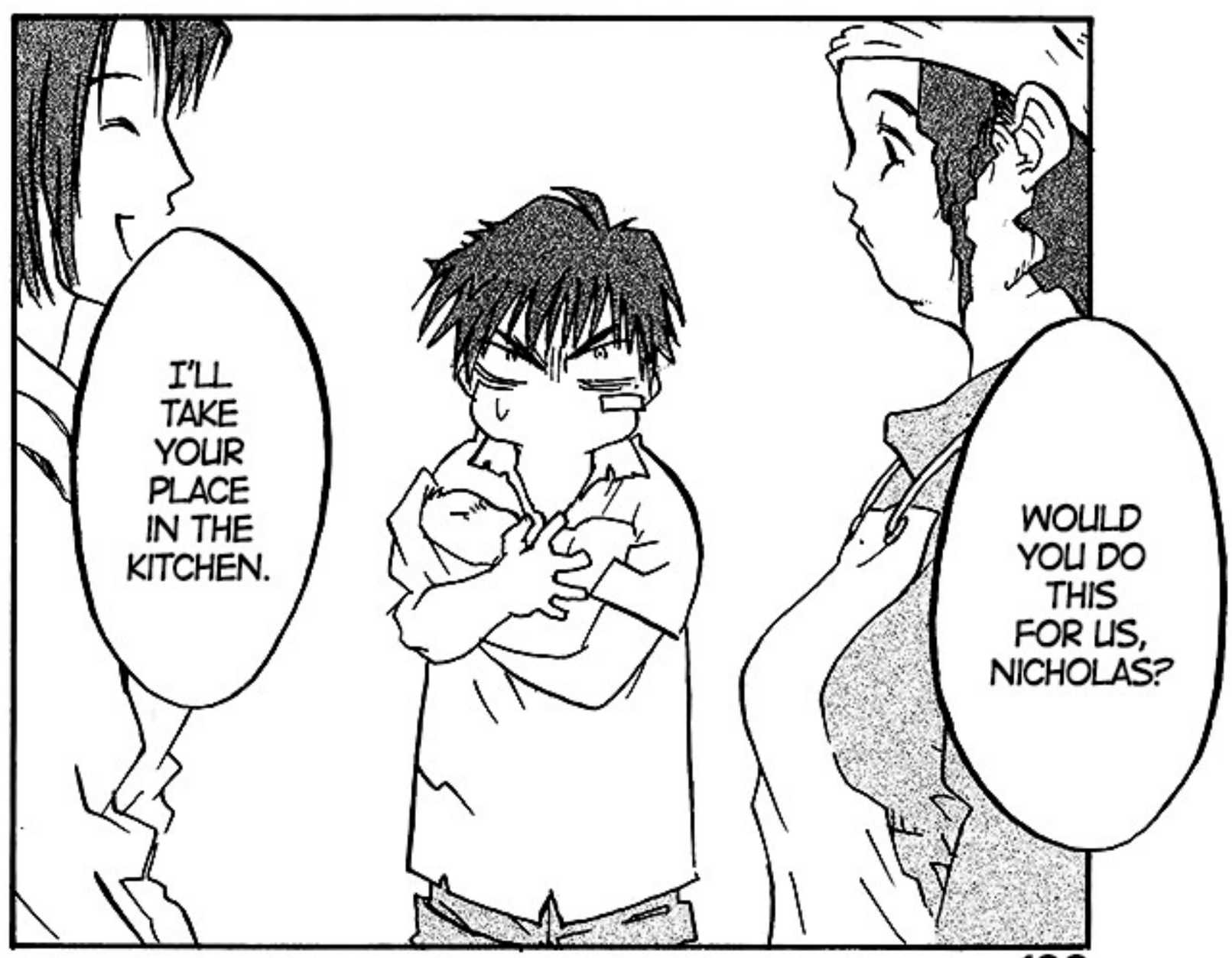
CLINK
...
...
SIGH
...
...
...
...
CAN'T BELIEVE SHE DIDN'T REMEMBER ME...

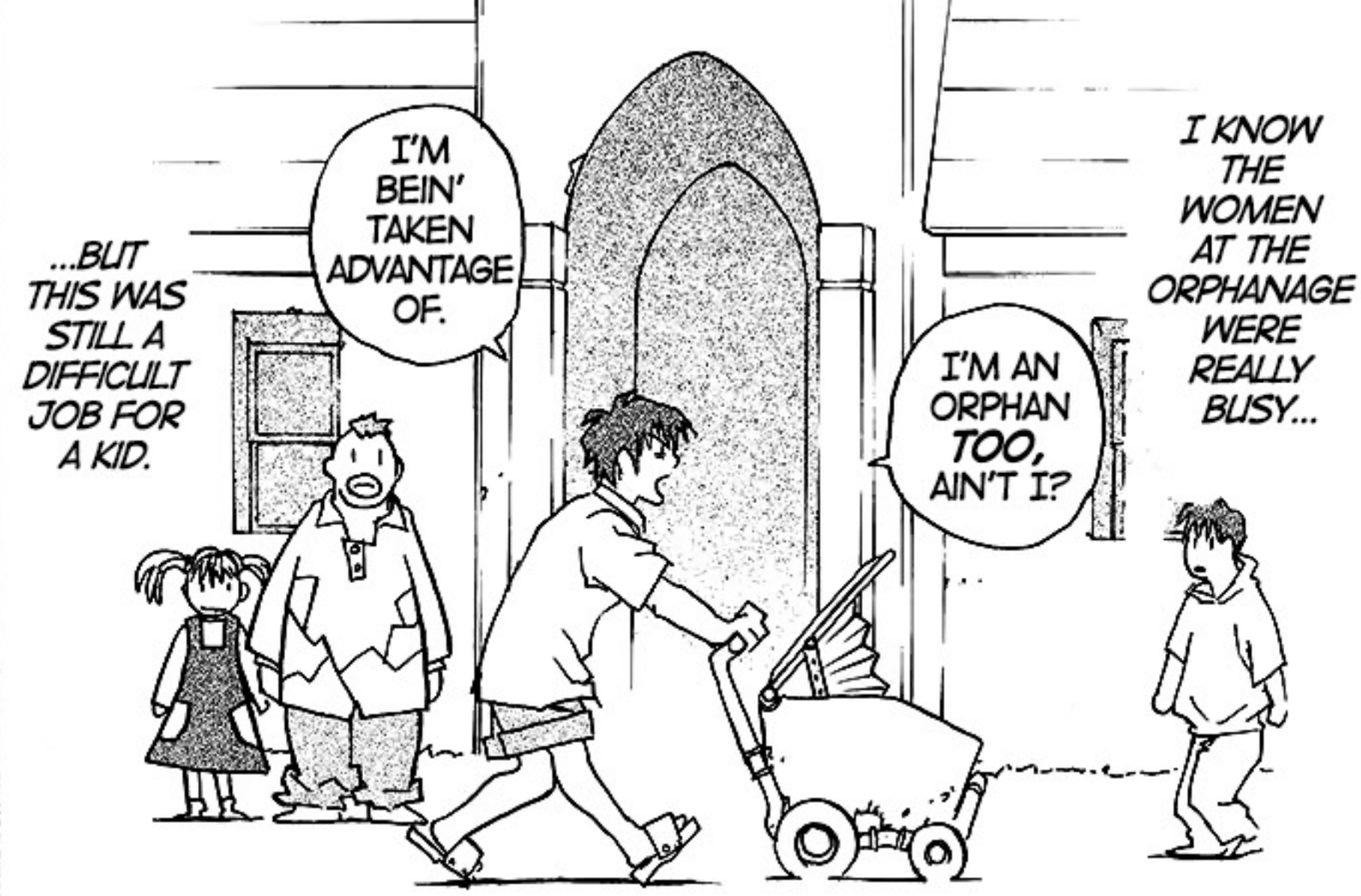
THERE, SEE?
SHE ONLY STOPS CRYING WHEN NICHOLAS HOLDS HER.
I GUESS IT HAS BEEN A LONG TIME...
OH, WELL.

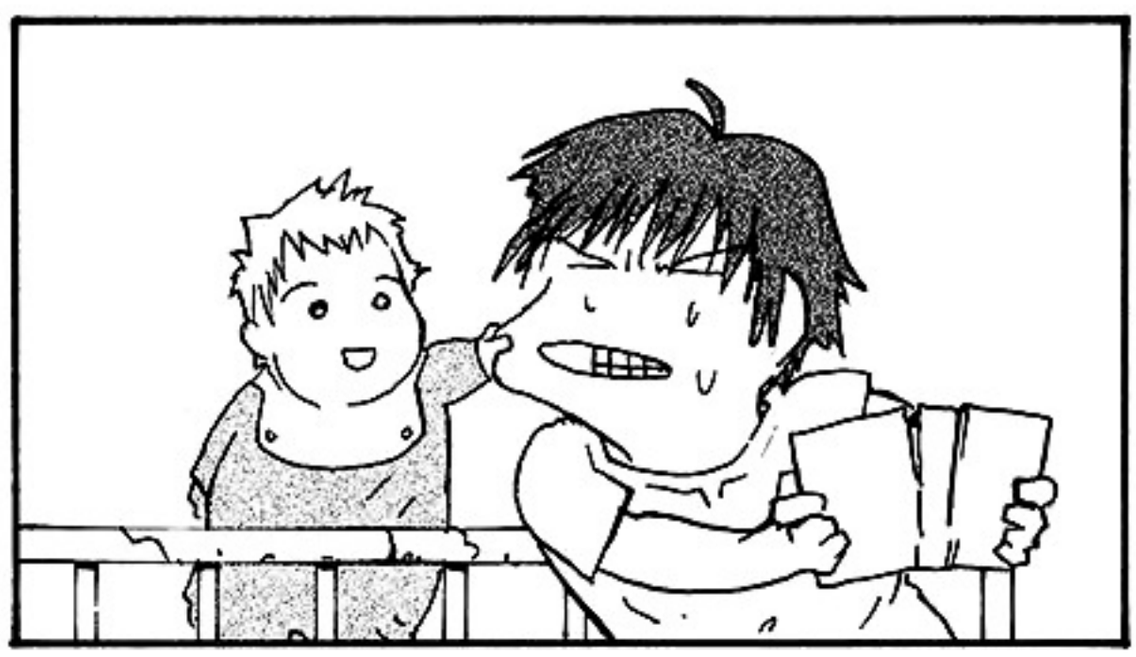
AW C'MON, GIMME A BREAK.

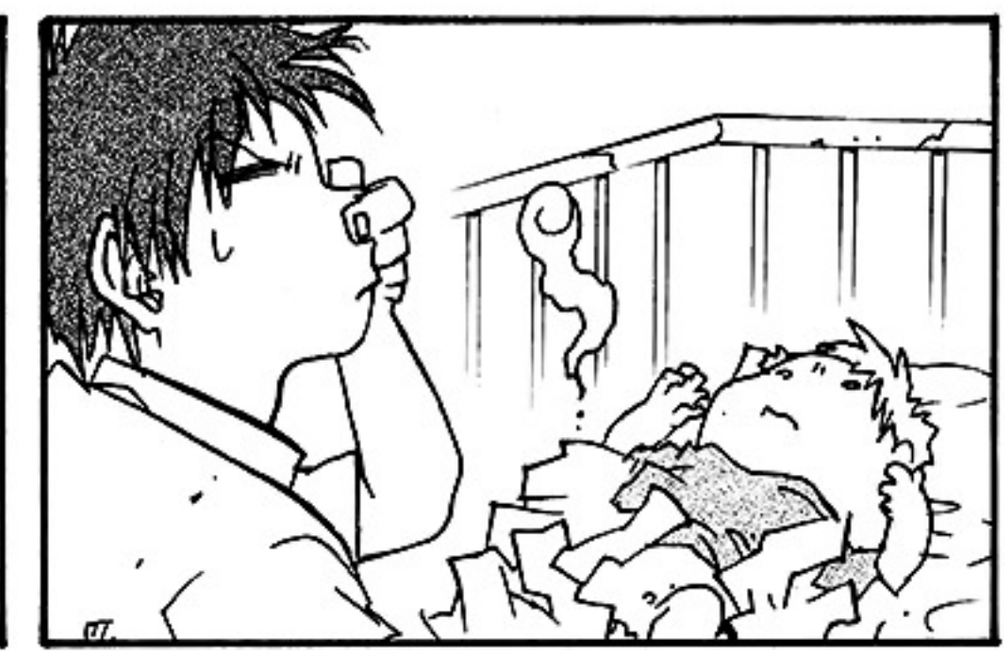


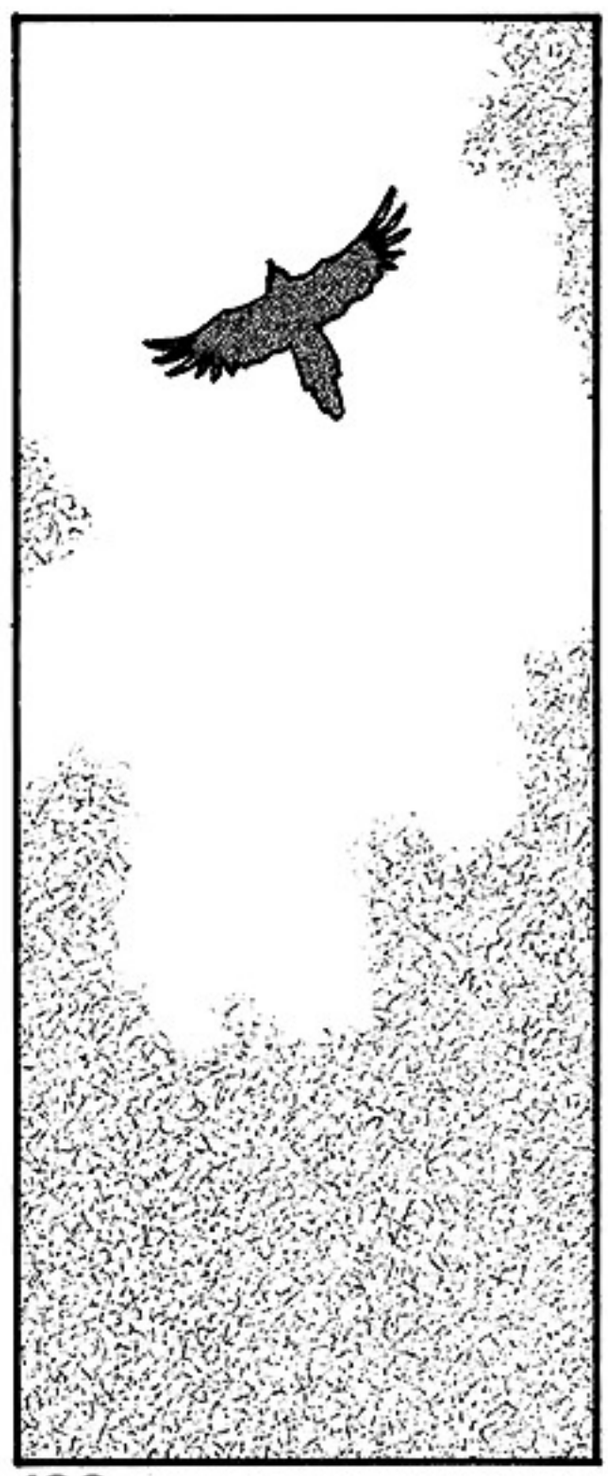


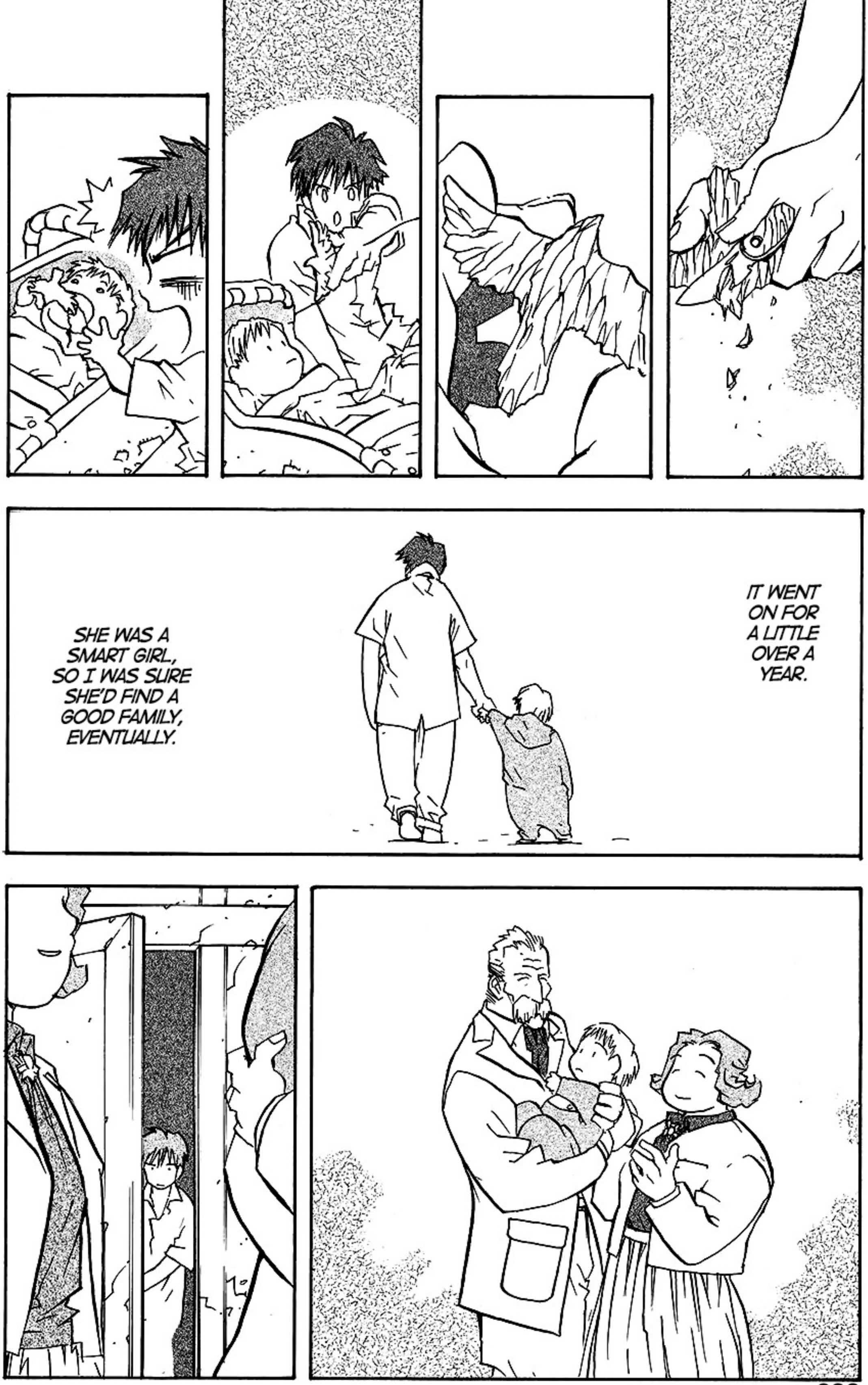

I'LL TAKE YOUR PLACE IN THE KITCHEN.
WOULD YOU DO THIS FOR US, NICHOLAS?

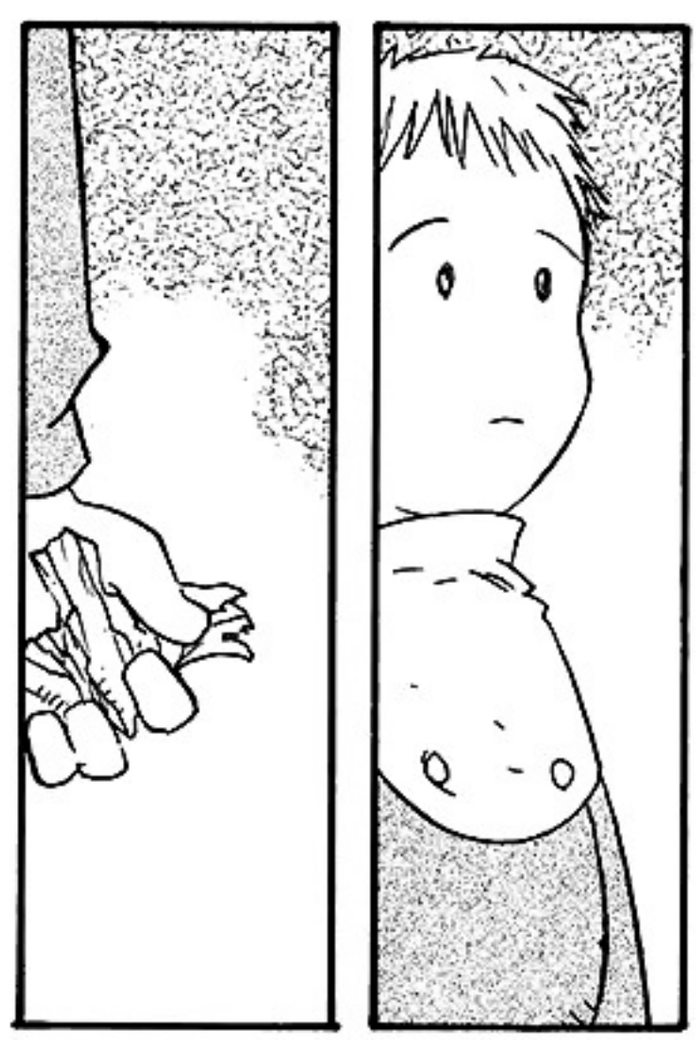

...BUT THIS WAS STILL A DIFFICULT JOB FOR A KID.
I'M BEIN' TAKEN ADVANTAGE OF.
I'M AN ORPHAN TOO, AIN'T I?
I KNOW THE WOMEN AT THE ORPHANAGE WERE REALLY BUSY...

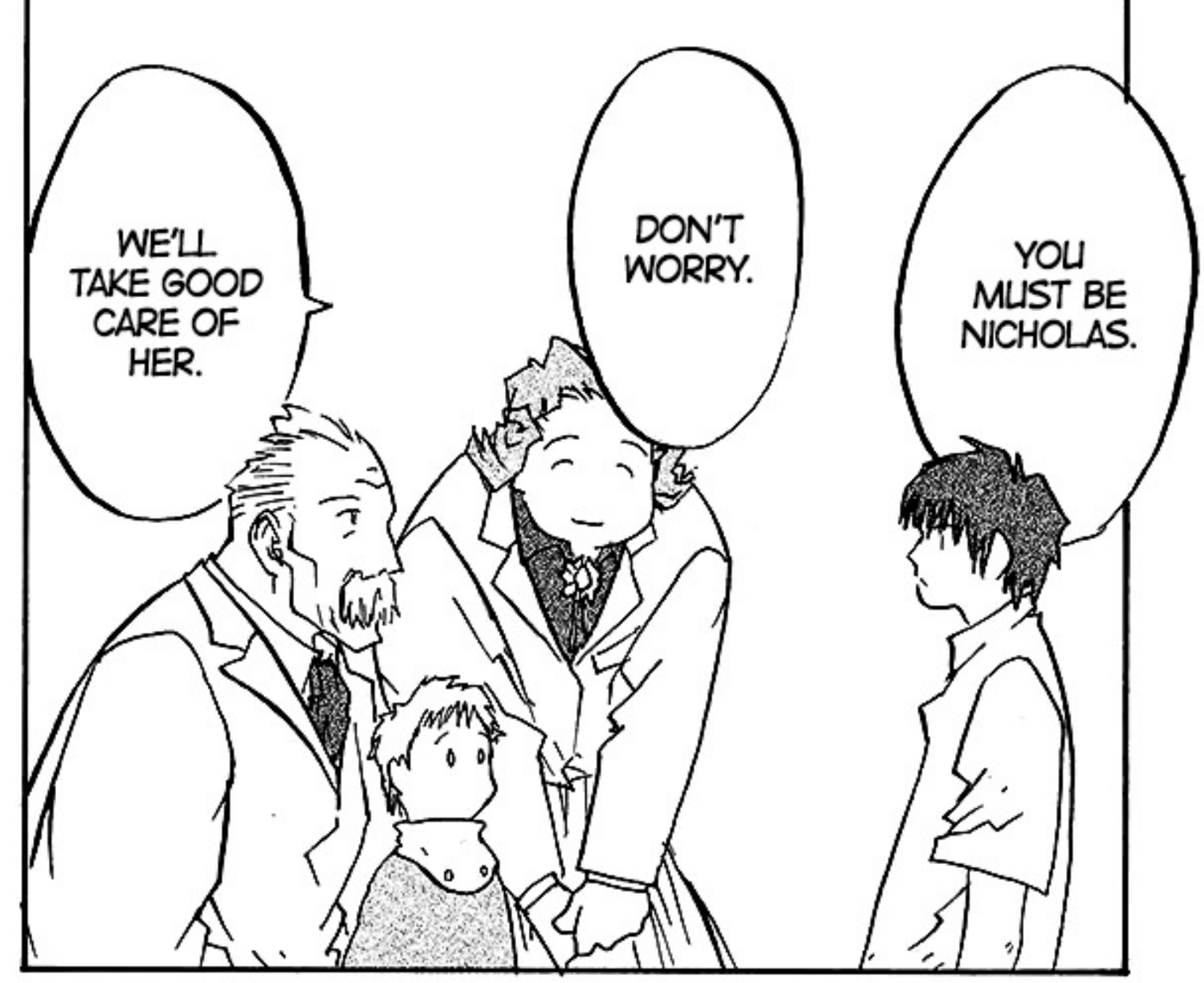


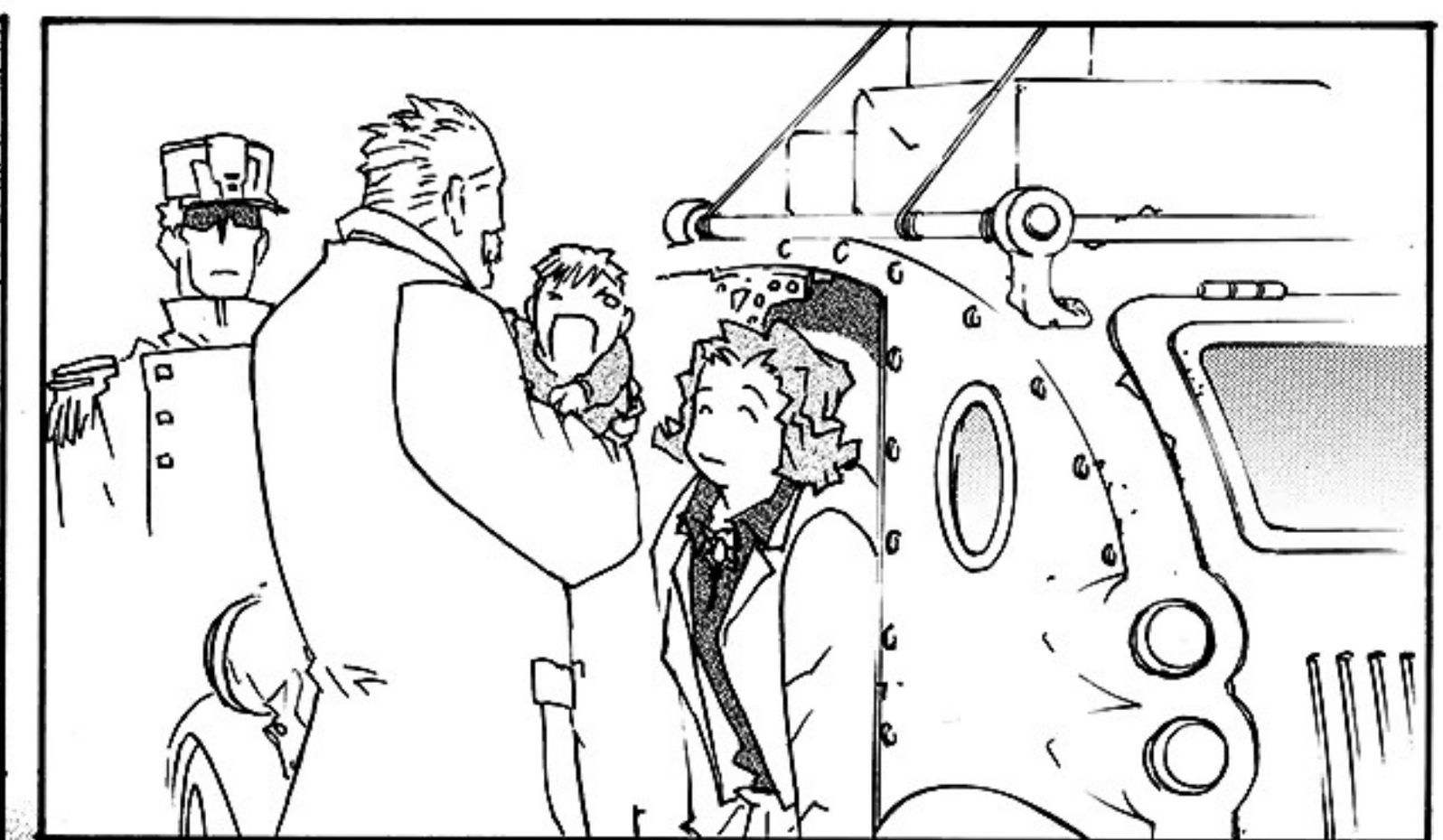





SHE WAS A SMART GIRL, SO I WAS SURE SHE'D FIND A GOOD FAMILY, EVENTUALLY.
IT WENT ON FOR A LITTLE OVER A YEAR.




WE'LL TAKE GOOD CARE OF HER.
DON'T WORRY.
YOU MUST BE NICHOLAS.



……

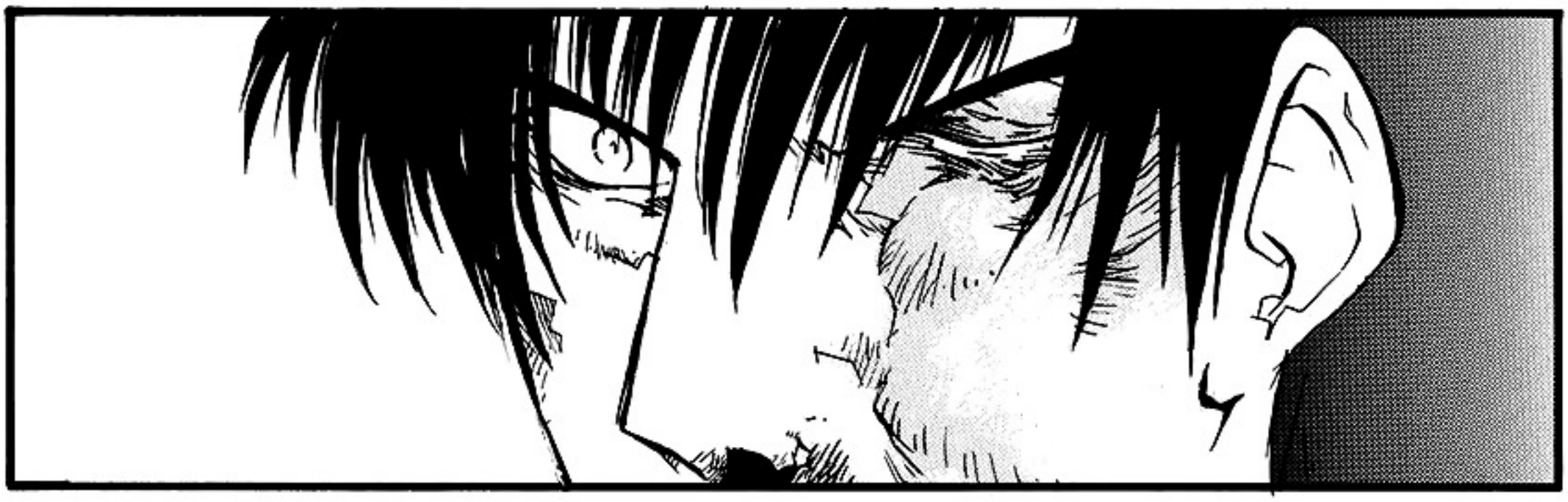
WHERE ARE YOU...

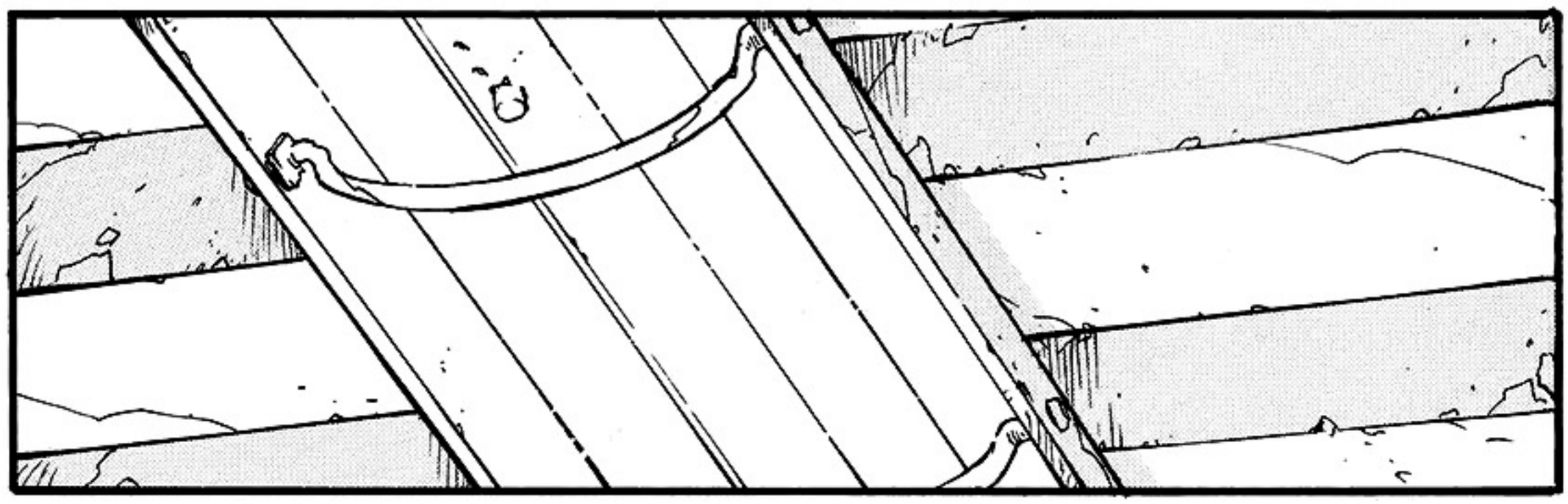
...MR. PRIEST?!

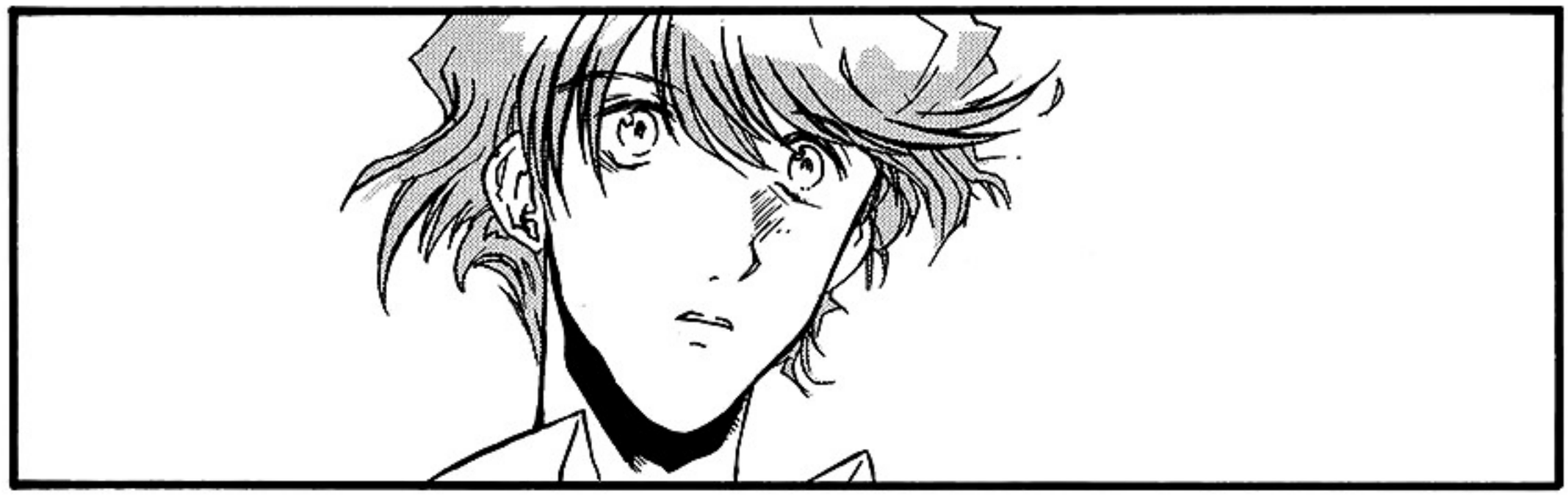
I'M HERE TO EXPRESS MY *GRATITUDE* FOR *HELPING* MY FIANCEE.

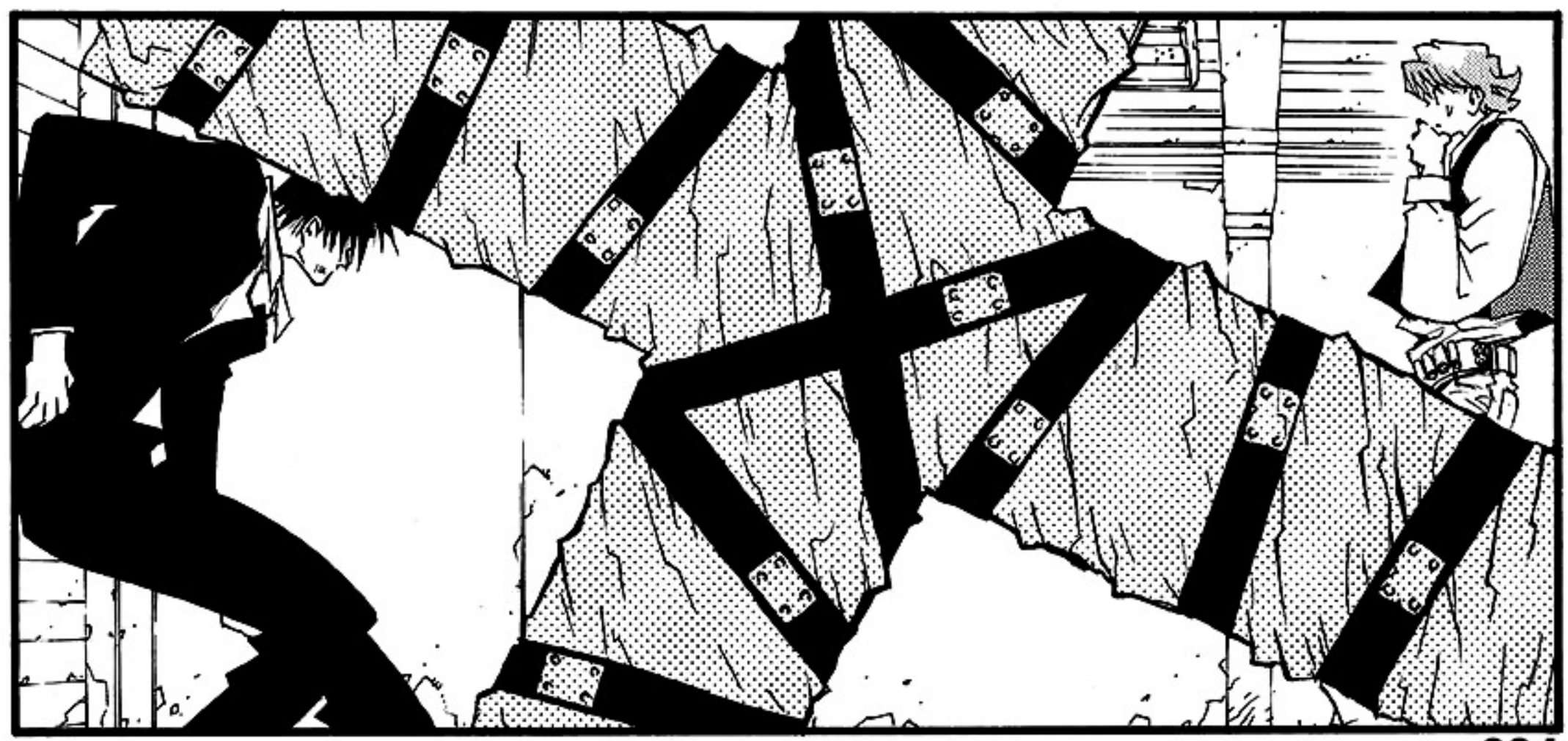
I AM *OREKANO,* I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT YOU'VE HEARD OF ME.

COME HERE!



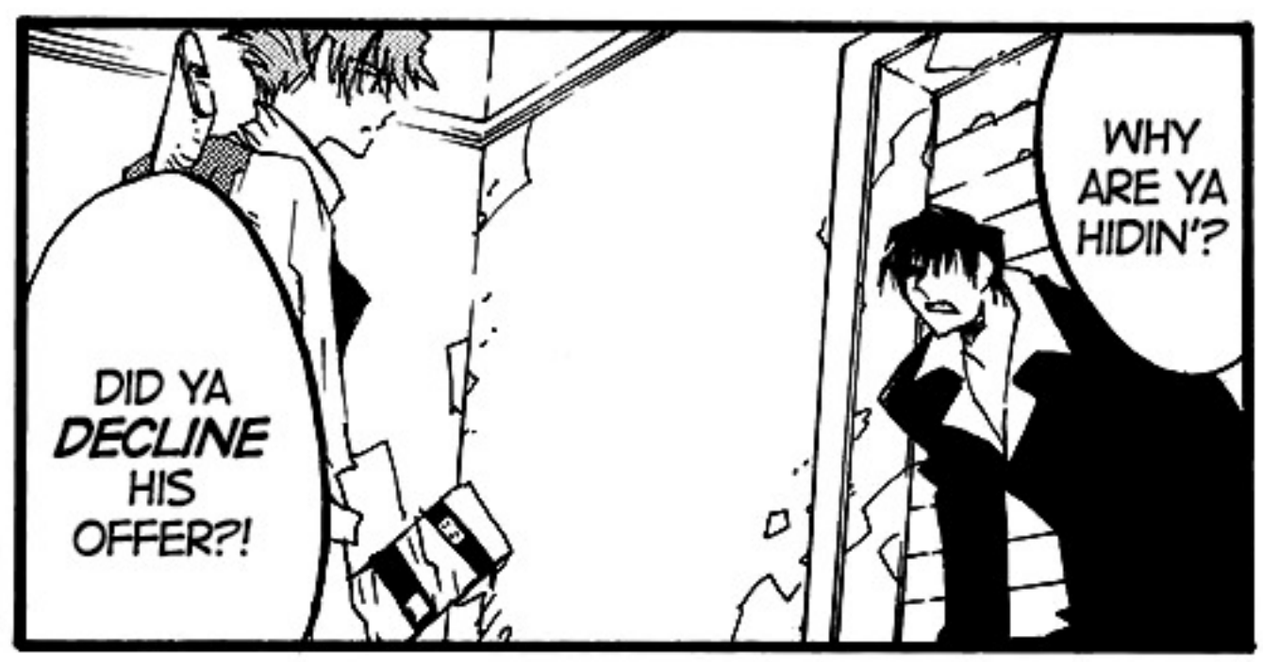


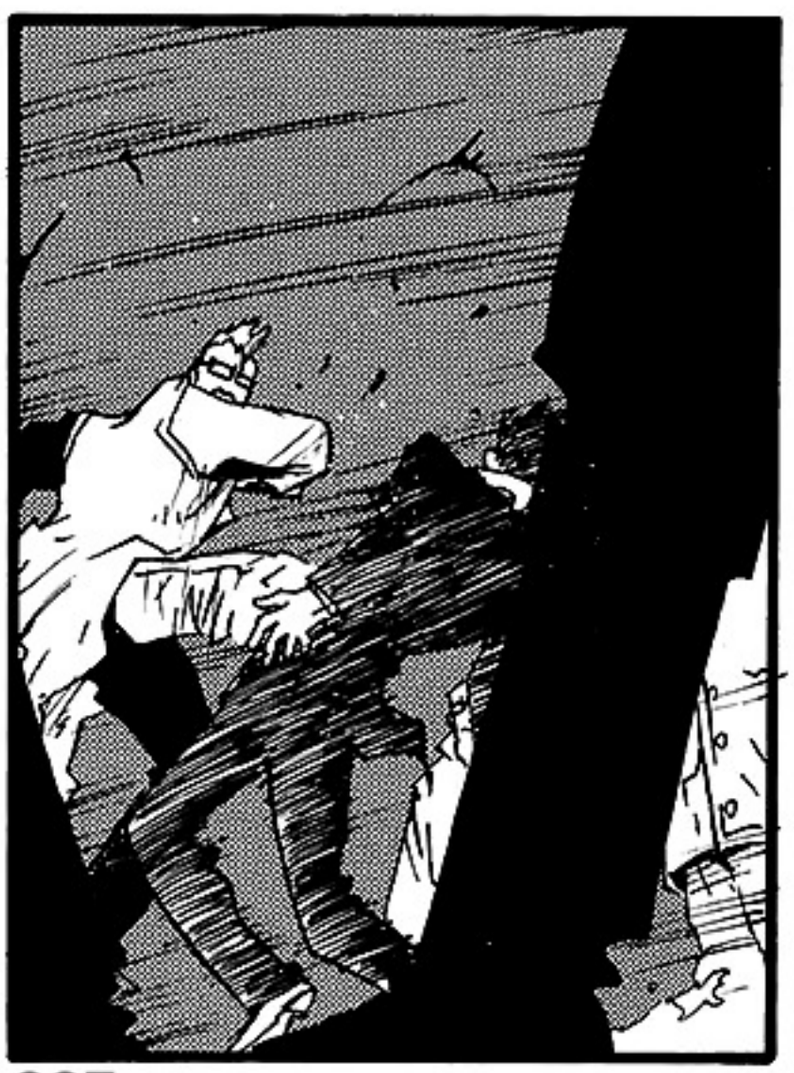


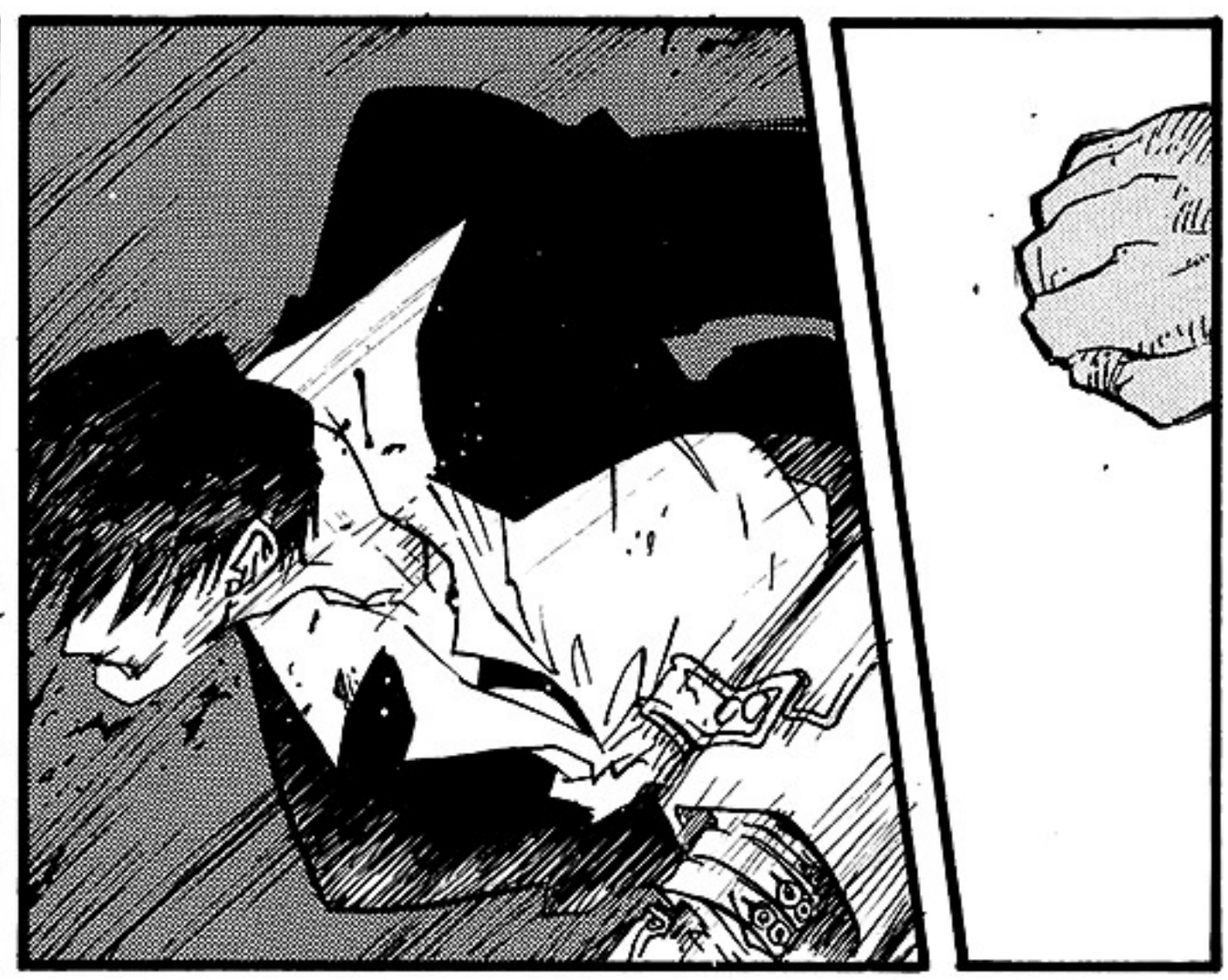


...
...
I'M SORRY.
I ASKED THE MADAM TO HIDE ME.
WHAT ARE YA DOIN' IN MY ROOM?

THOSE BRUISES... WAS IT OREKANO ...?
WHY WOULD YA DO THAT?!


WHY ARE YA HIDIN'?
DID YA DECLINE HIS OFFER?!





MARK THIS DAY AS THE DAY I *DIED!*

I AM SLAIN!

OOOHOHH!

WHY WOULD YOU DO SUCH A THING?

WHY DID YOU STICK YOUR BIG NOSE INTO *MY* BUSINESS?!

SOB SNIFF SOB

OF COURSE YOU DID.

YOU PUT THIS IDEA INTO HER HEAD, DIDN'T YOU?

I REALLY, REALLY...

...*REALLY*...

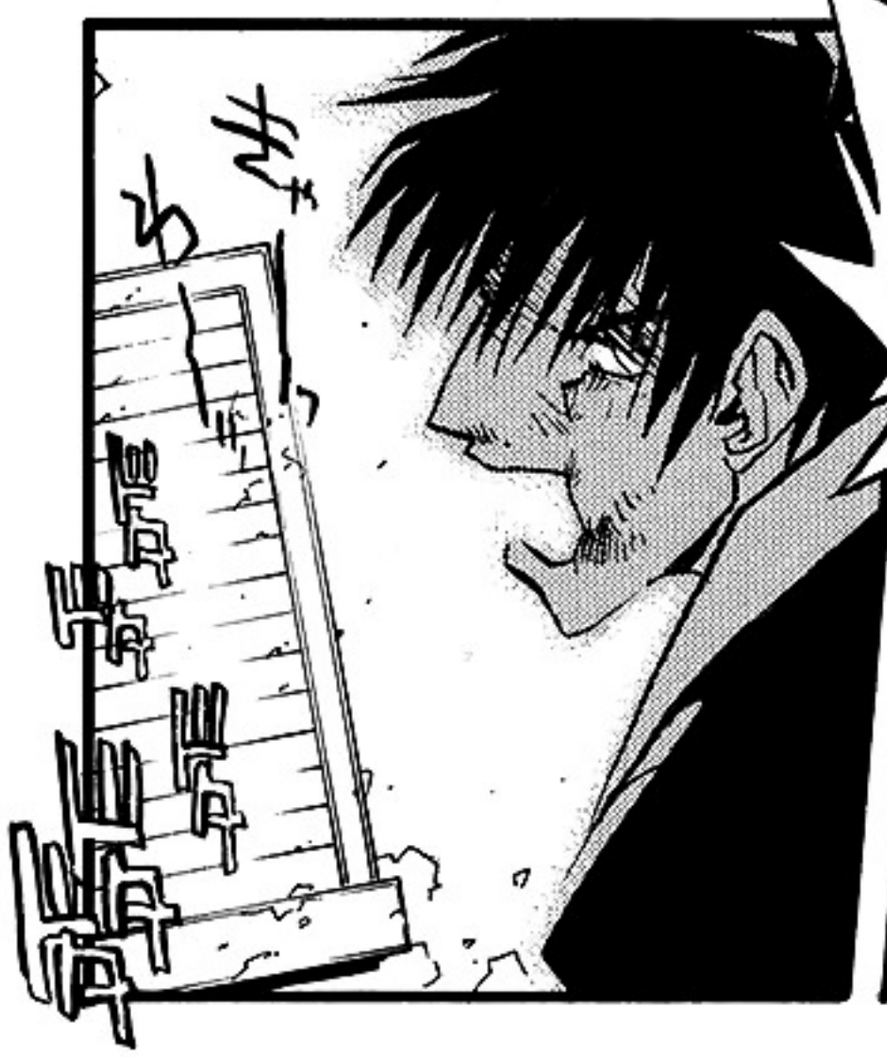
...*PRIEST*.

...*DON'T* WANT TO HEAR IT, BUT I HAVE ONE THING I *MUST* ASK YOU...

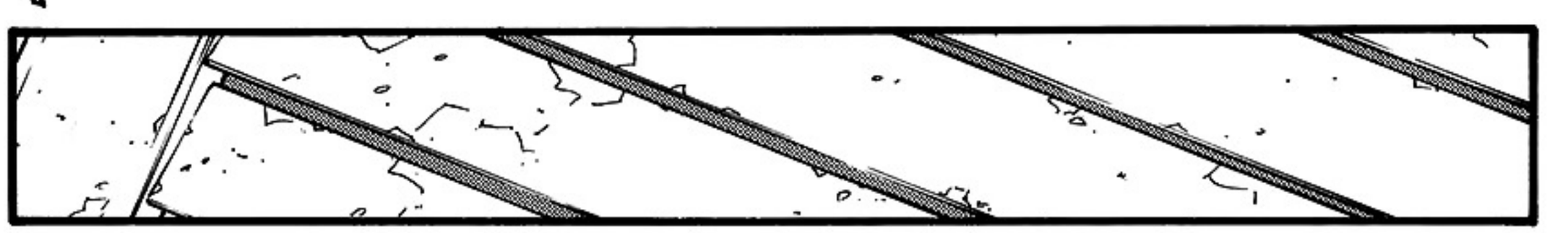
HER LIFE DEPENDS ON YOUR ANSWER!
DID YOU SCREW HER?!
DID YOU DO IT?!
...TO LET SUCH A CRIME GO UNPUNISHED!
I'M NOT THE KIND OF MAN...
WELL?!
DOES IT MATTER, ASSHOLE?!
YER BREATH STILL SMELLS LIKE YER MAMA'S TIT, I AIN'T GOT NOTHIN' TO SAY TO YA!
WHAT'S YOUR ANSWER ...
...PRIEST ?!

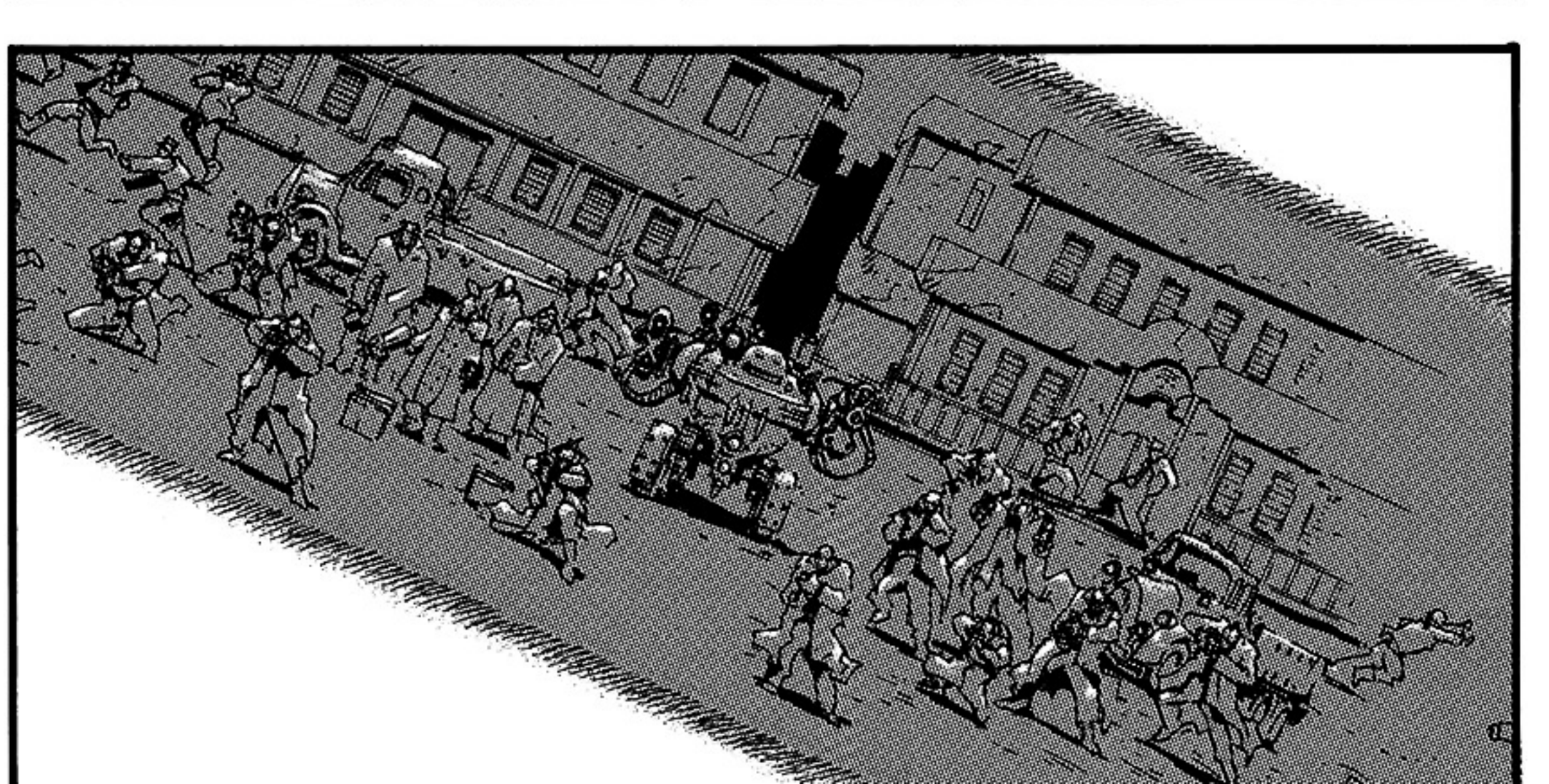
?
WHAT IS IT?

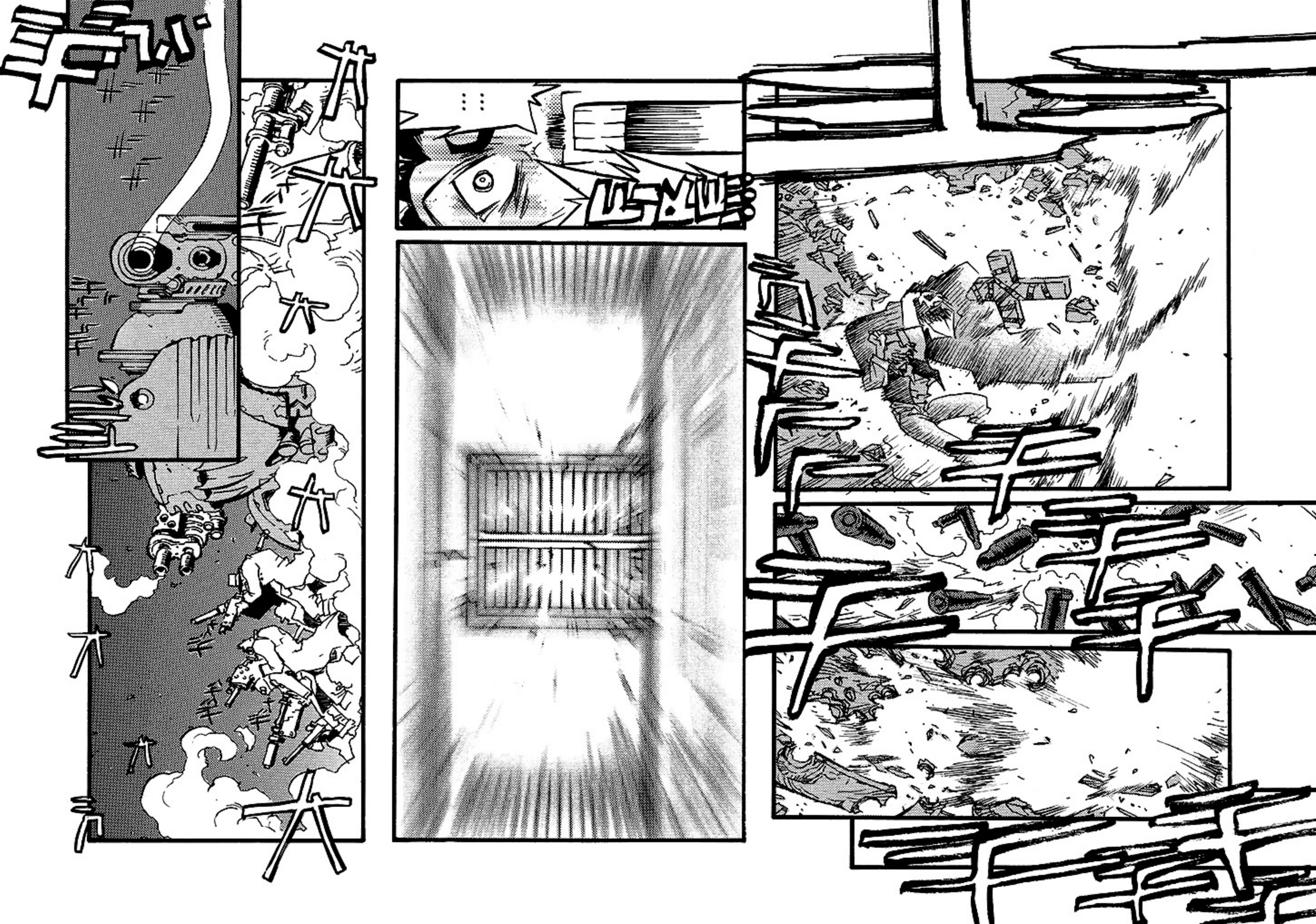
YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING TO HELP EITHER, PRIEST!
... ...
THIS IS ALL THANKS TO YOU...
...


HURRY!

?!
GET OUTTA HERE, NOW!
RUN!



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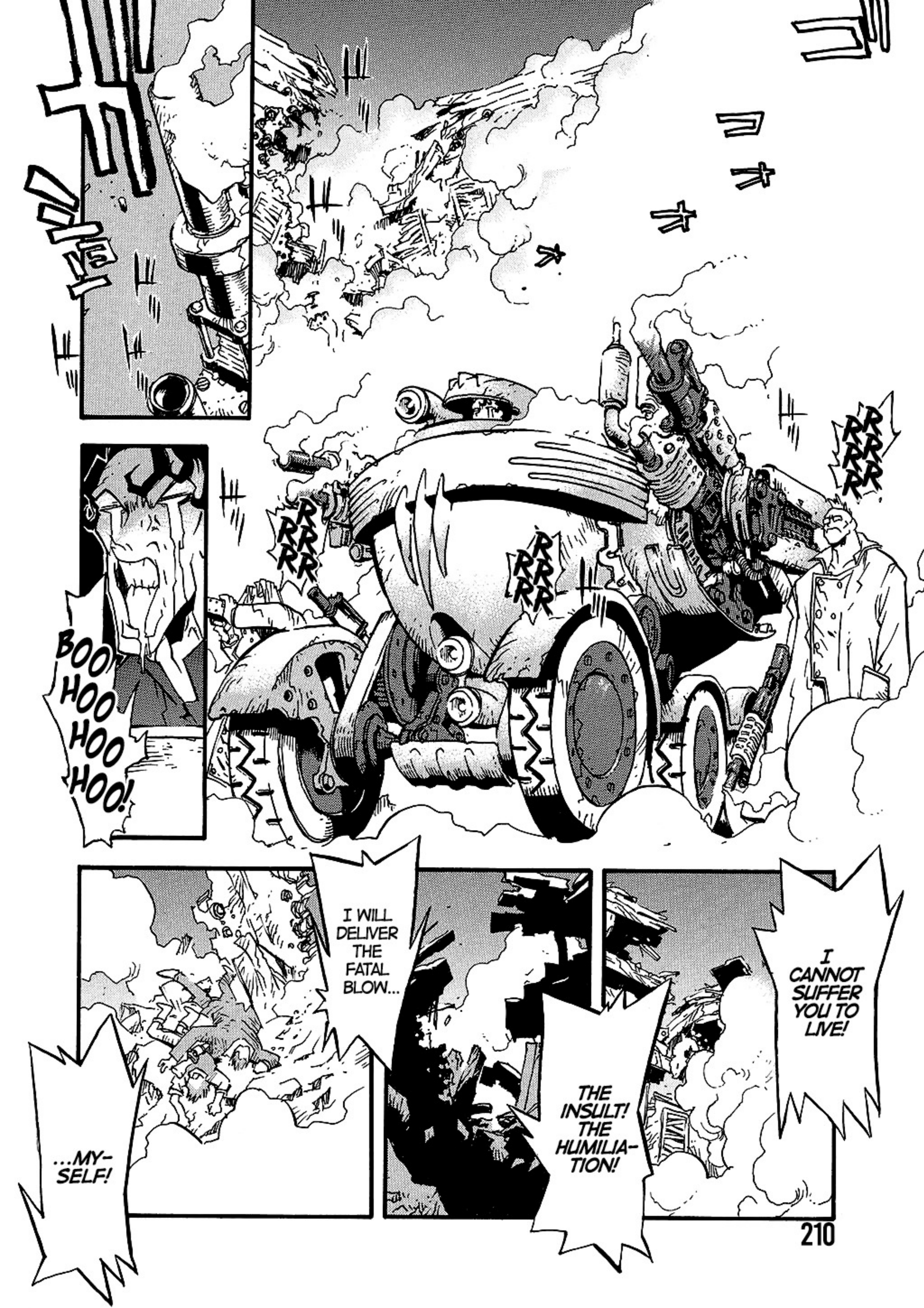
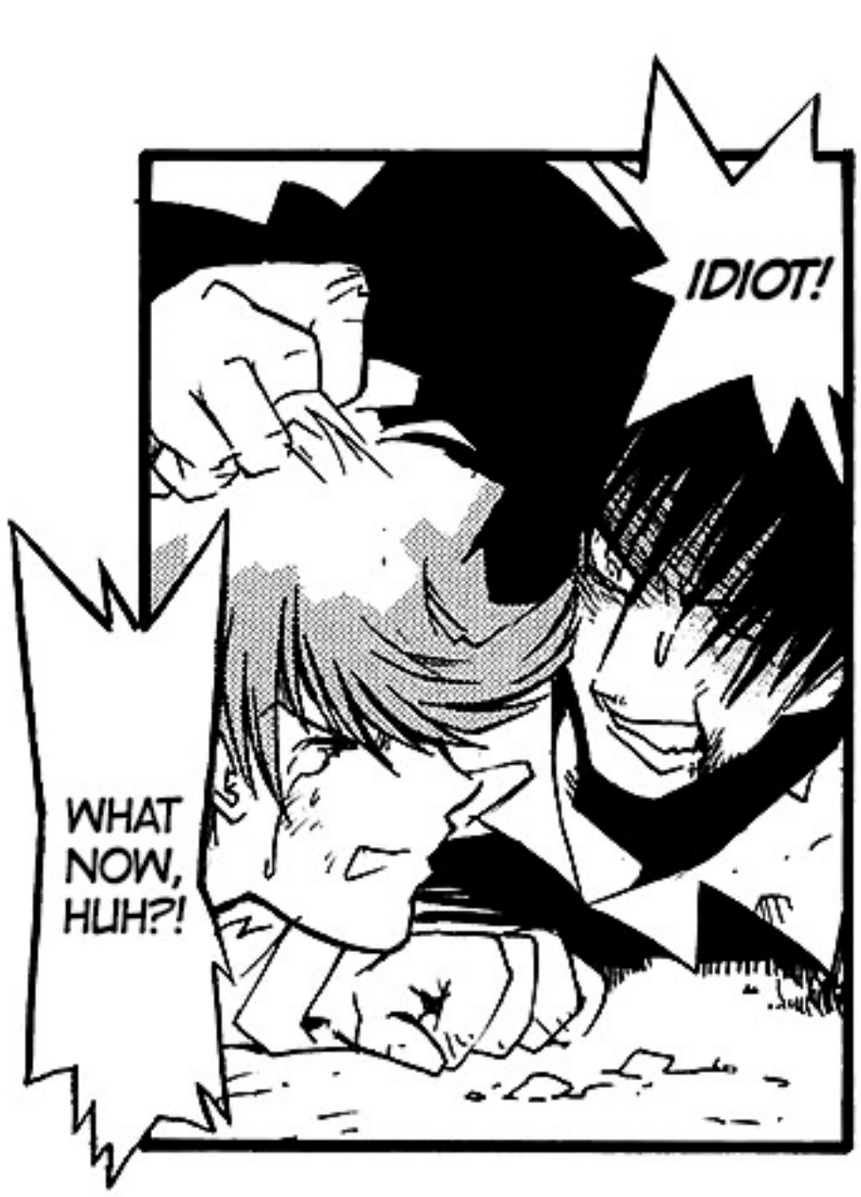
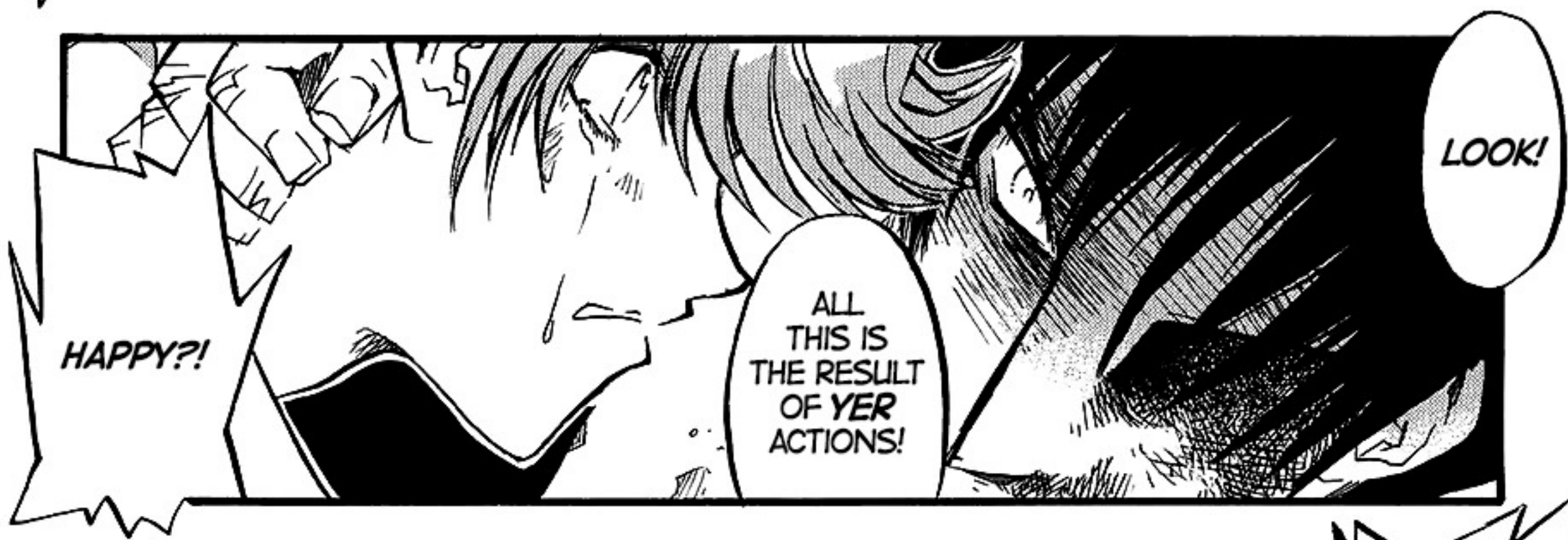

ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ
ゴゴゴ
RRRRR
RRRRR
RRRRR
BOOHOOHOOHOO!
I WILL DELIVER THE FATAL BLOW...
...MYSELF!
THE INSULT! THE HUMILIATION!
I CANNOT SUFFER YOU TO LIVE!


IDIOT!
WHAT NOW, HUH?!

AA AA!

...
...

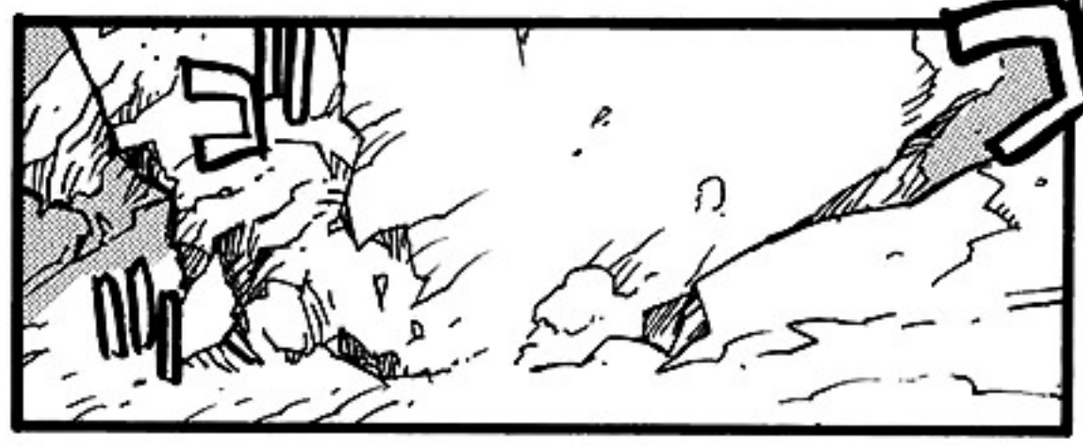

LOOK!
HAPPY?!
ALL THIS IS THE RESULT OF *YER* ACTIONS!

IF YA JUST DID WHAT YOU WERE TOLD AND GONE QUIETLY...
...THEN *NONE* OF THIS WOULD HAVE HAP-PENED!

LOOK.

THAT BIRD...

IT'S IN TERRIBLE SHAPE...



DUMB-ASS!
GET YER HEAD DOWN!
WRONG WAY...
IDIOT!
YAAA

AH!
AA
AA
AA
I HATE TO SEE YOU LIKE THIS...
THIS IS YOUR PUNISH-MENT!
MAYLENE!
AAAAAAH!!
EEIIAAAAAA!!
...MY POOR MAYLENE!
YOU MUST REALIZE WHAT YOU'VE DONE!

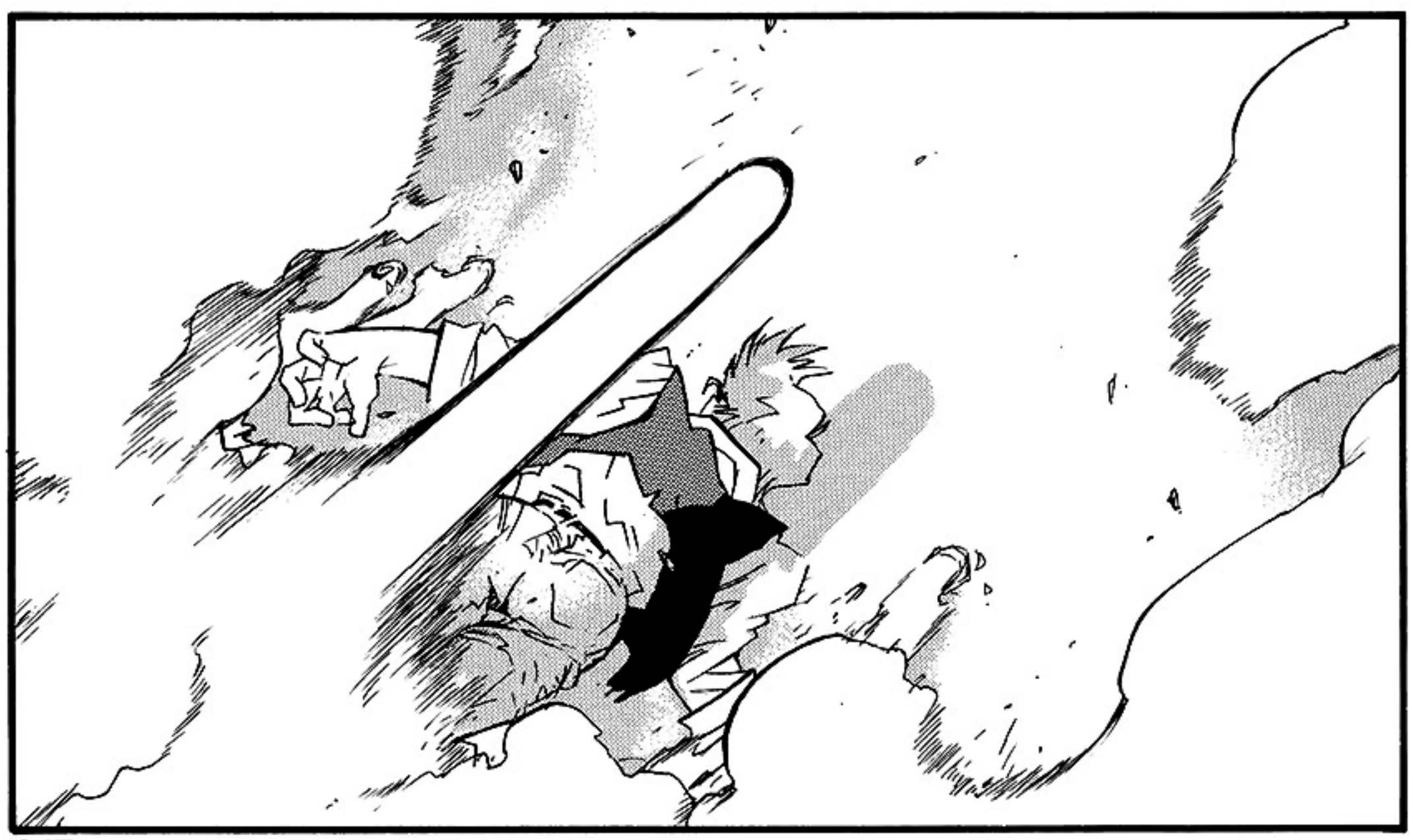
AT LEAST...

...I WON'T HAVE TO STAIN MY HANDS WITH YOUR *DEFILED* BODY.

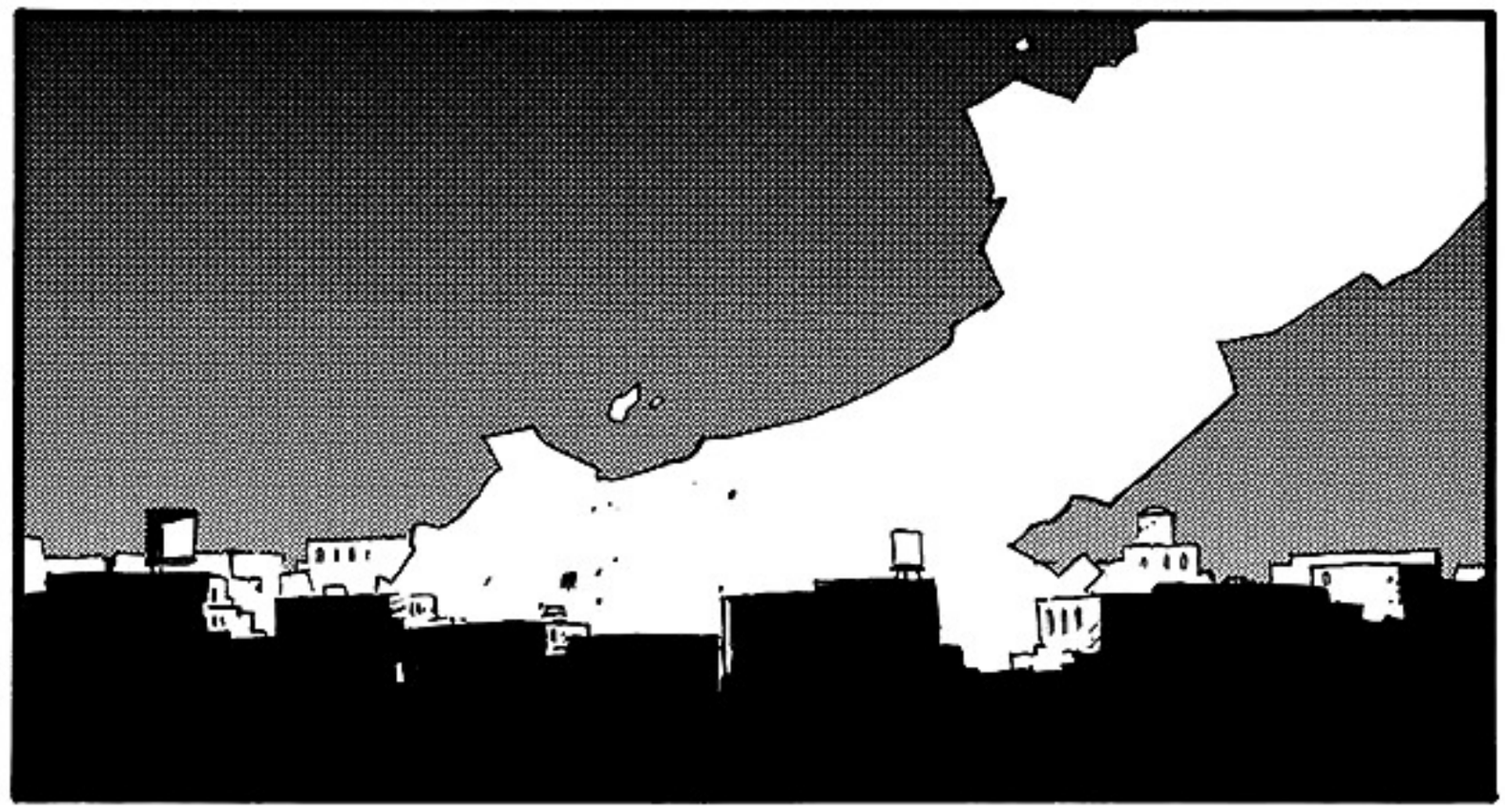
YOU'VE LOST YOUR *PURITY!*

I WILL SEND YOU OFF!

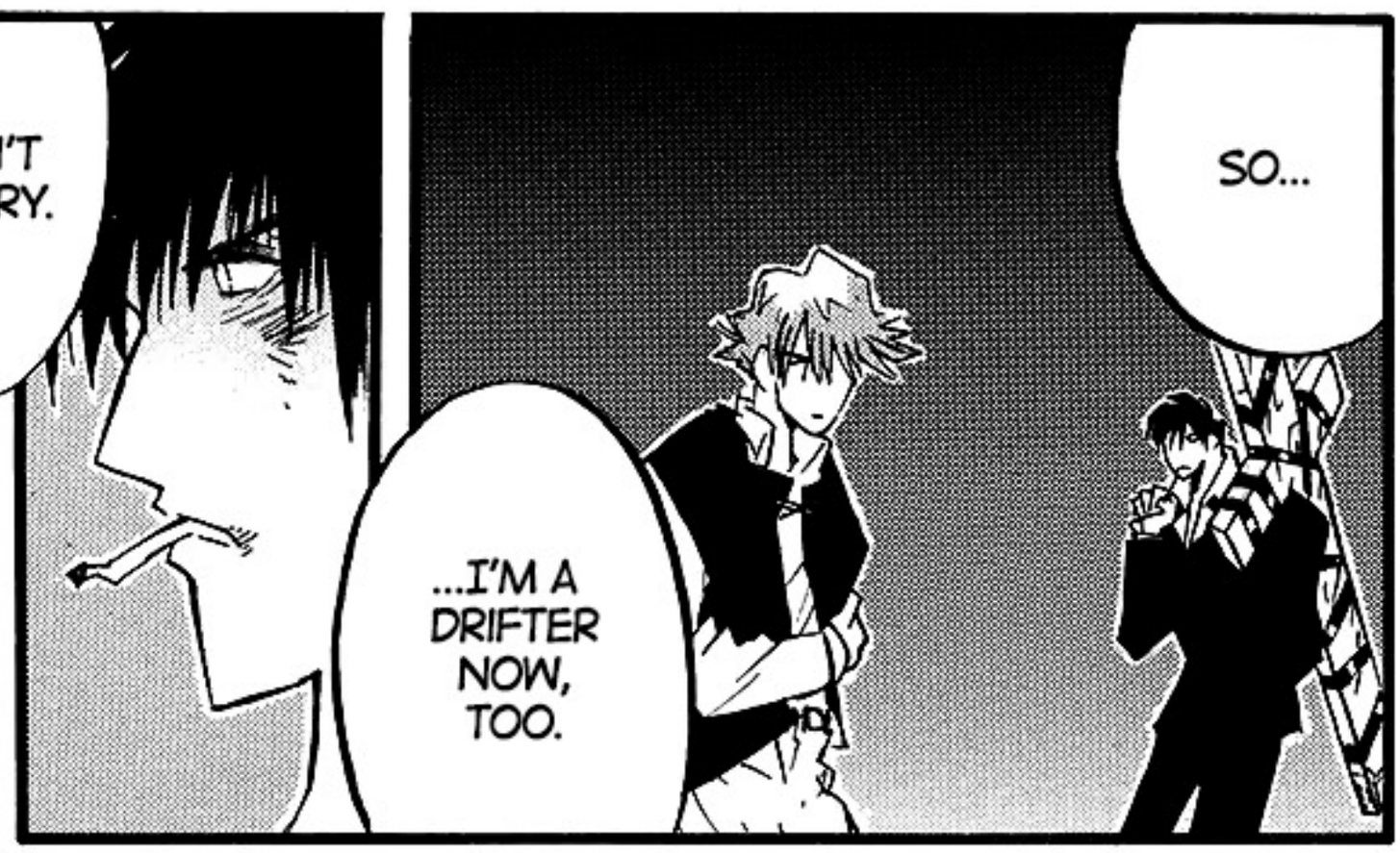
MAYLENE!



I'VE HAD IT...
...WITH YER INSULTIN' "CARE."



DON'T WORRY.
WITH THE WAY YER ACTIN', IT WON'T LAST LONG.

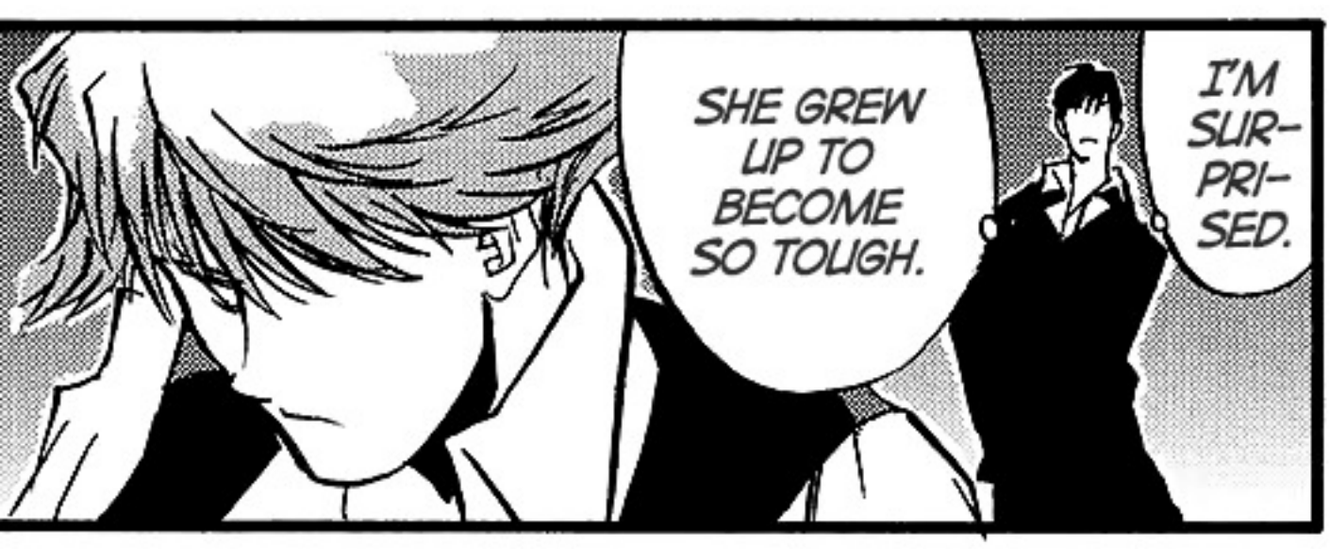

SO...
...I'M A DRIFTER NOW, TOO.

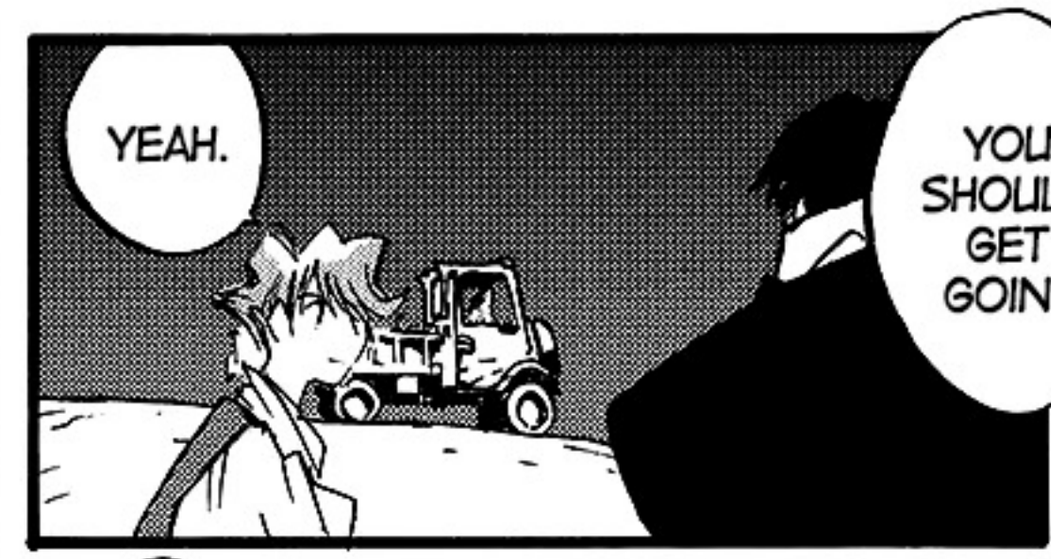
I KNOW, BUT...
...I'M *TIRED* OF A LIFE WHERE I JUST FILL THE GAPS IN OTHER PEOPLE'S LIVES.

STUPID KID...
AIN'T *NOTHIN'* WRONG WITH THAT KIND OF LIFE.

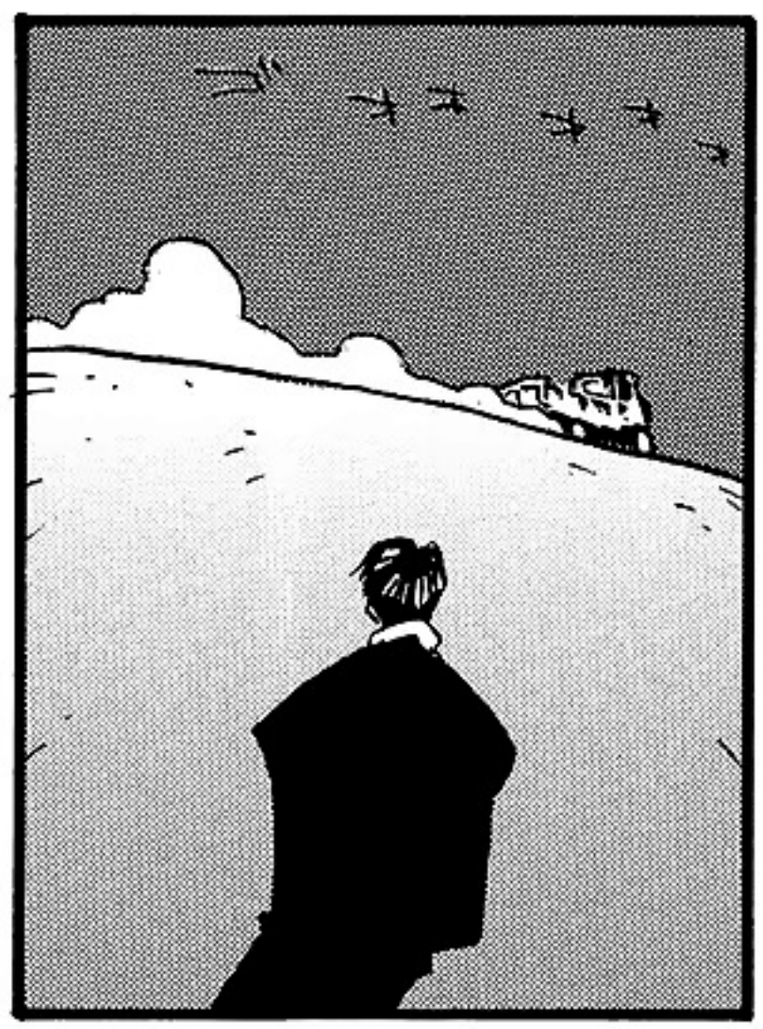
JUST HALF IS ENOUGH. IT WAS ONLY A SMALL CERE-MONY.

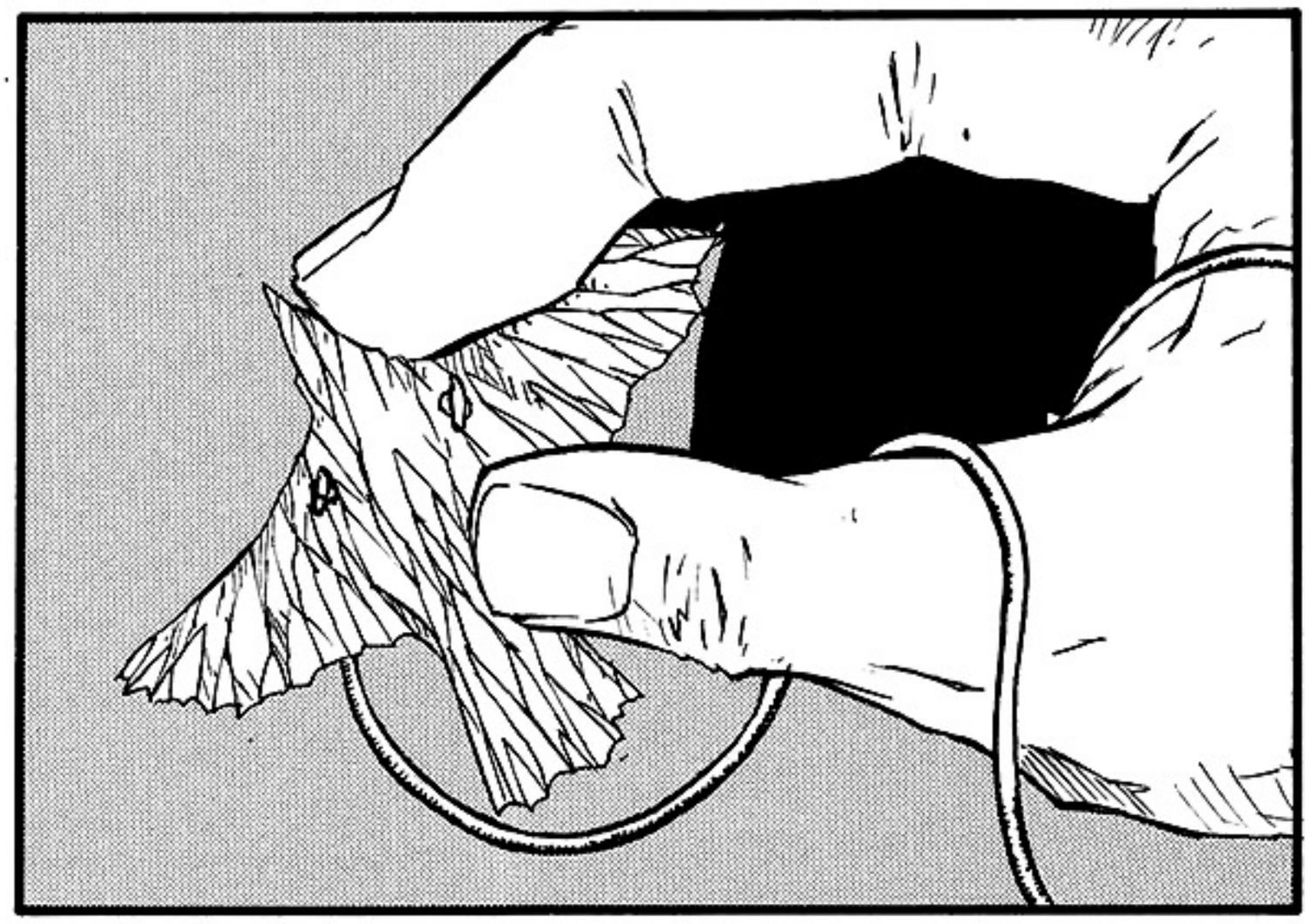
I HOPE THIS COVERS THE FUNERAL SERVICE.
THANK YOU.

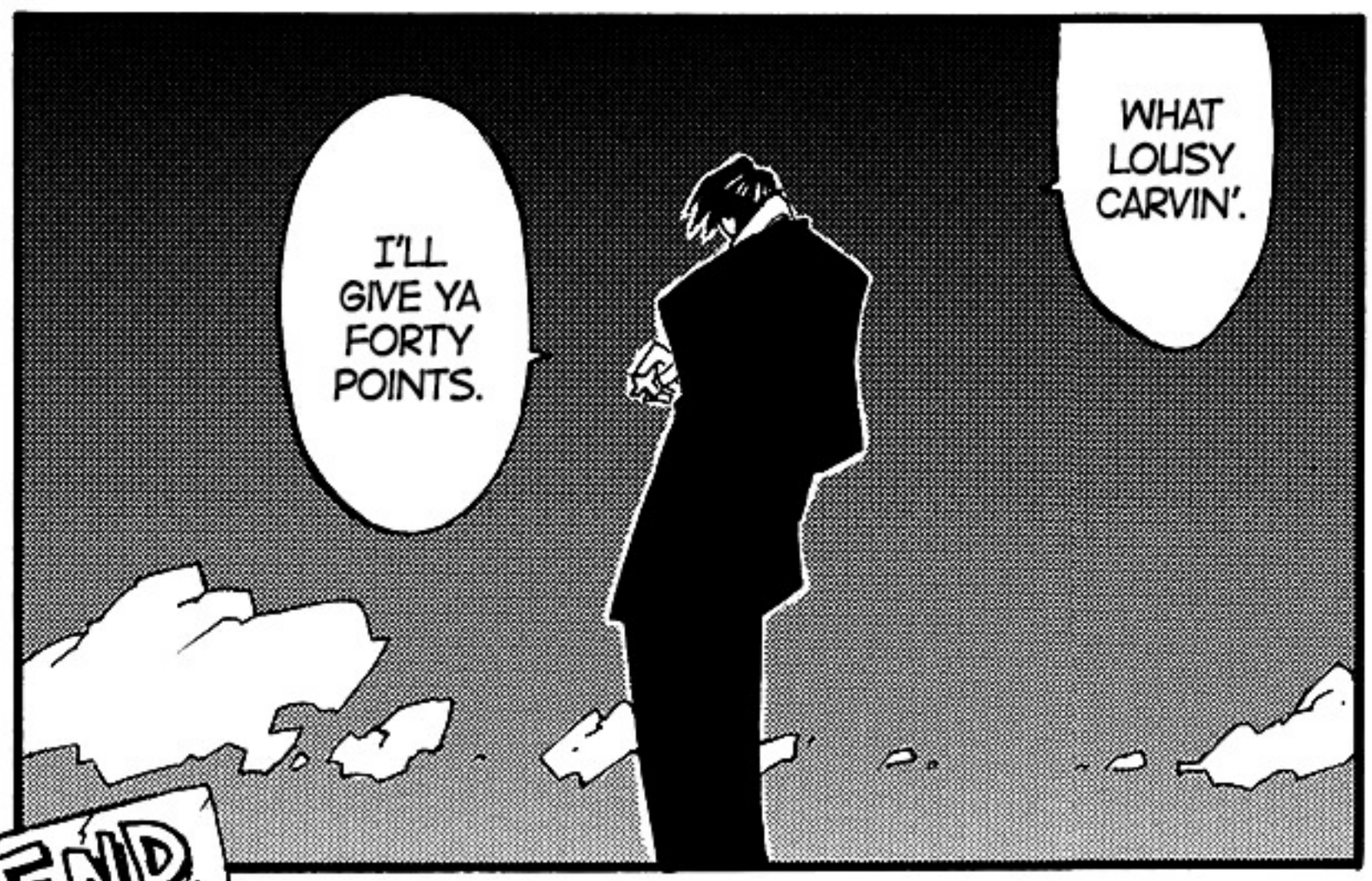

SHE GREW UP TO BECOME SO TOUGH.
I'M SUR-PRI-SED.


YEAH.
YOU SHOULD GET GOIN'.

I MADE IT MYSELF.
I'VE GOT ONE LAST THING TO GIVE YOU.







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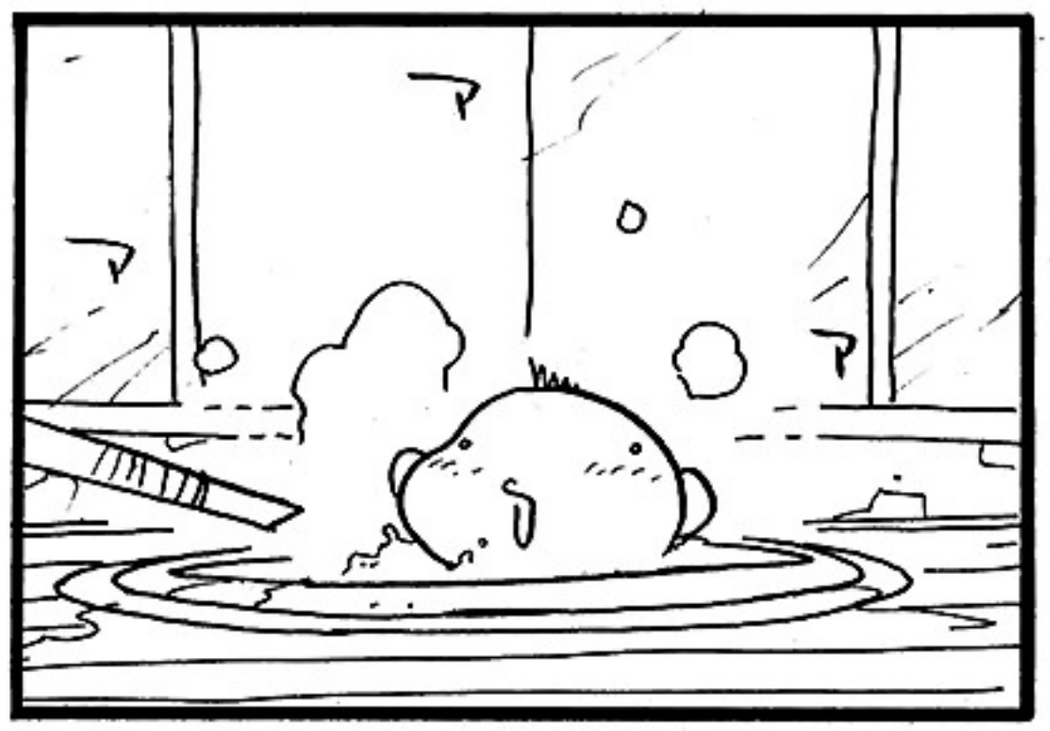
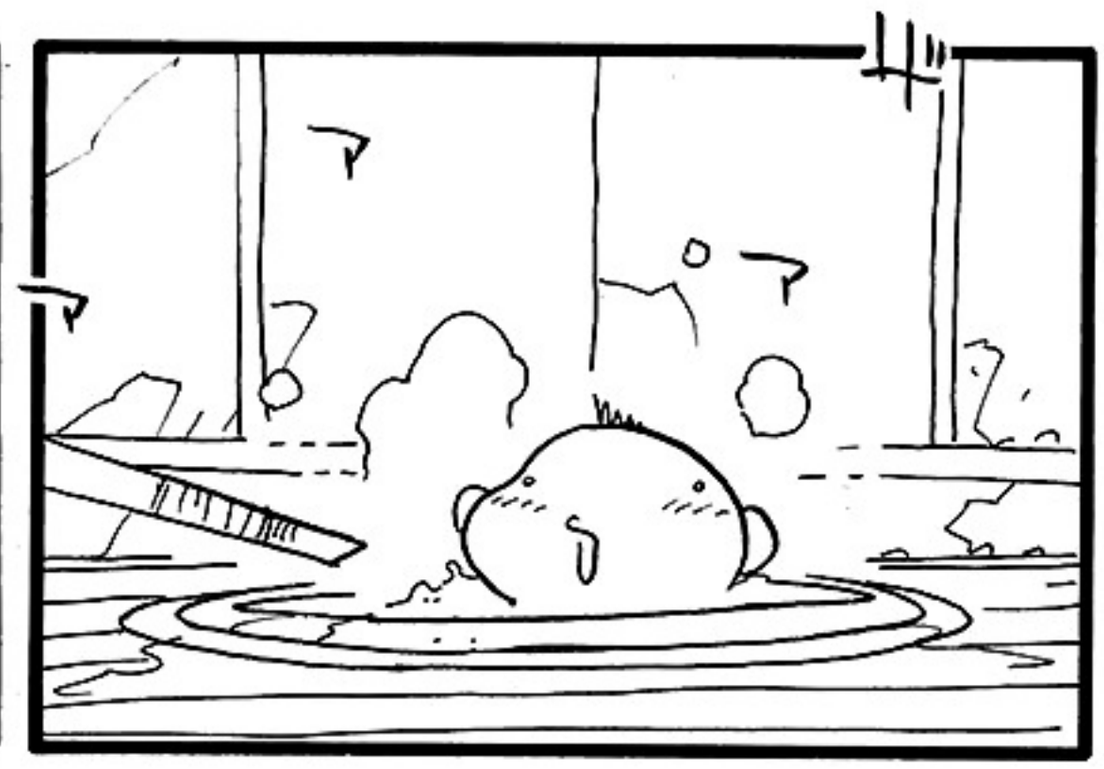
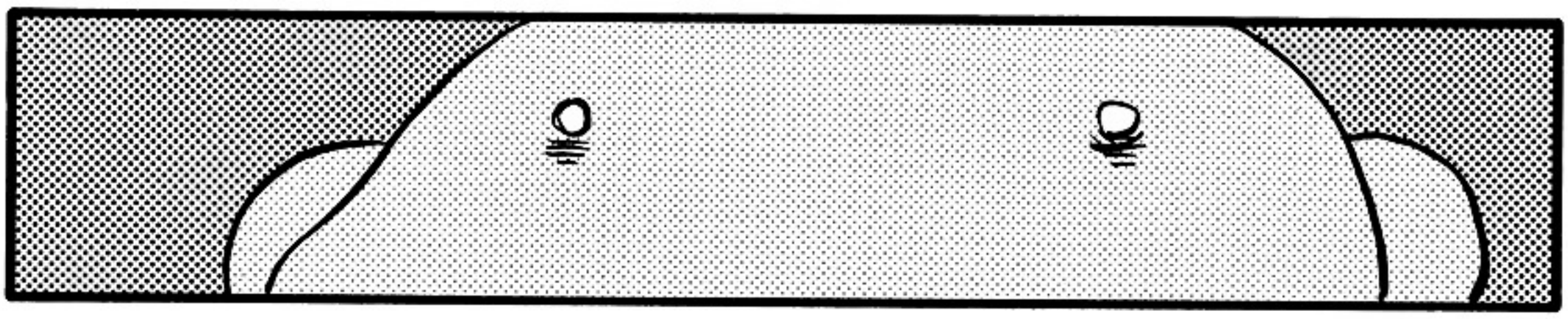
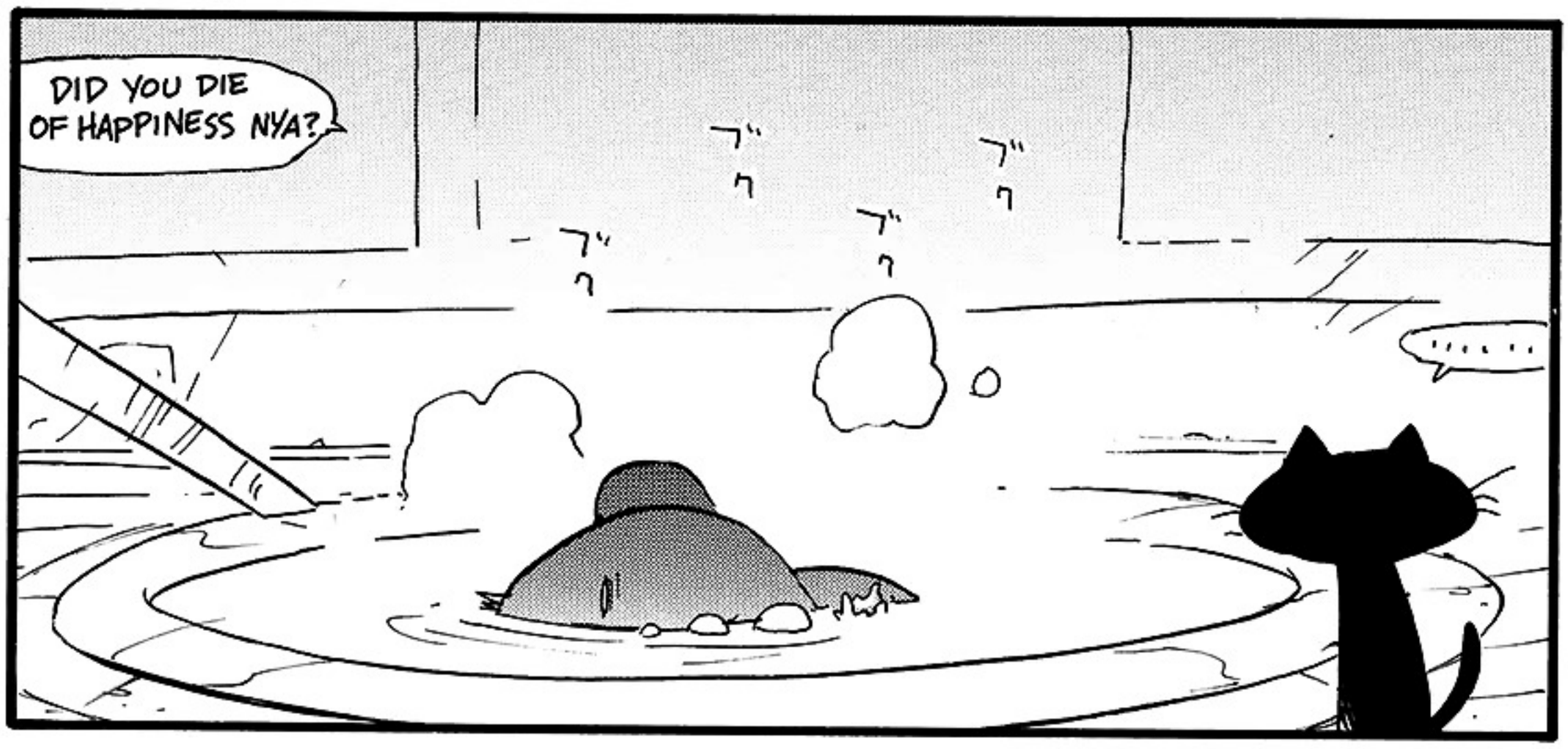
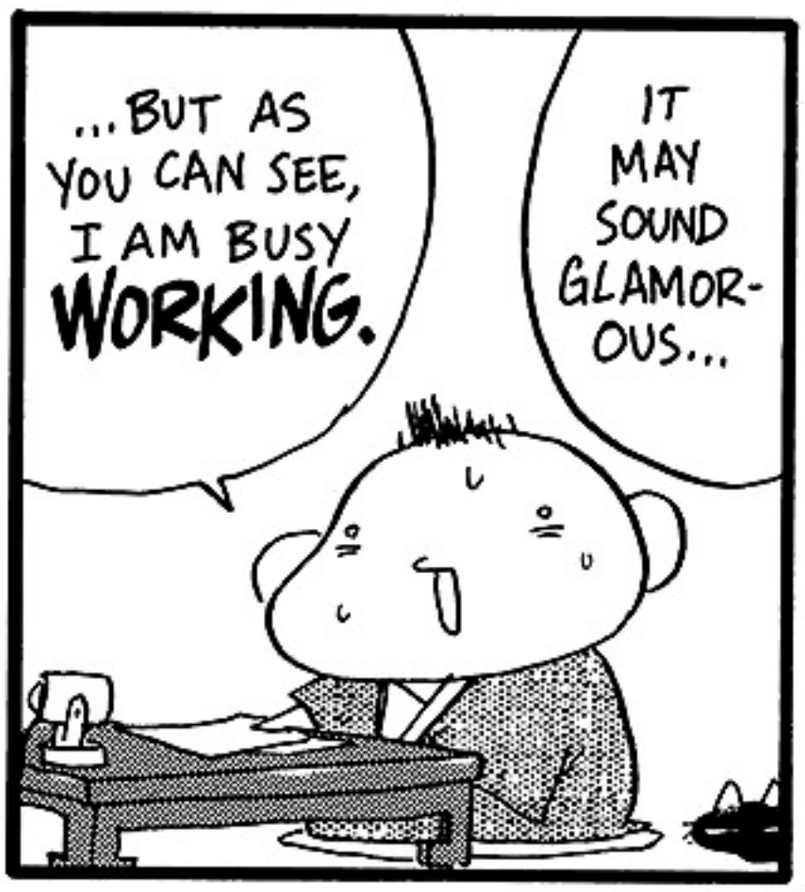


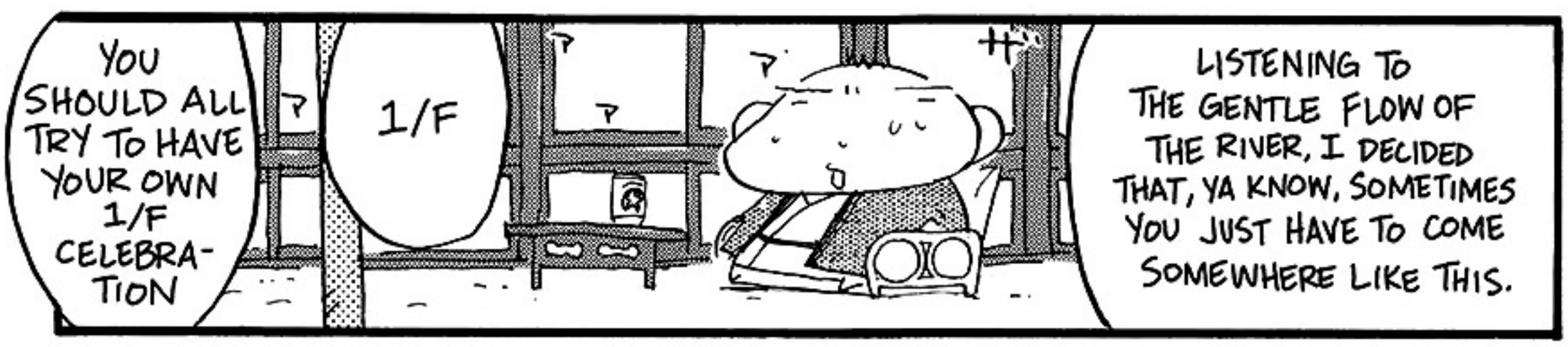


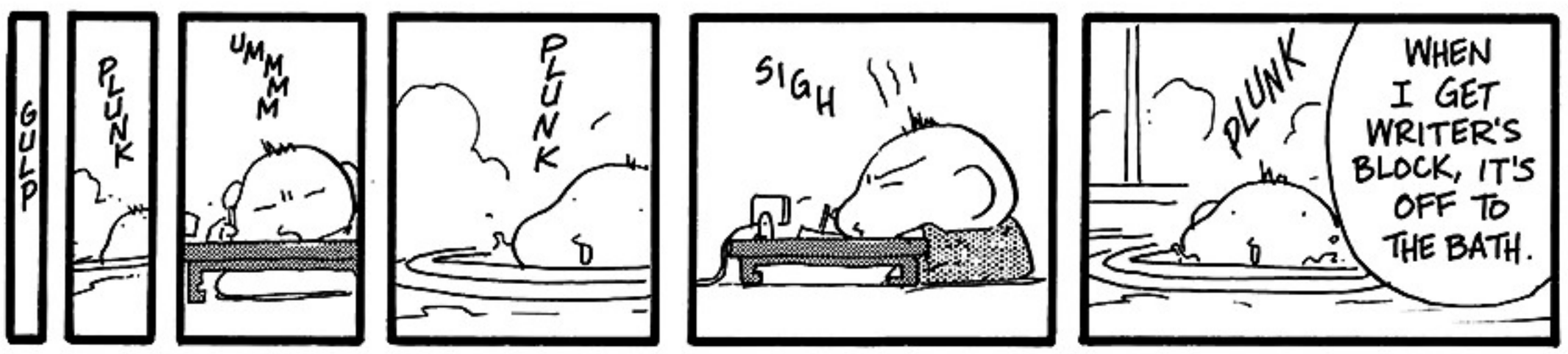


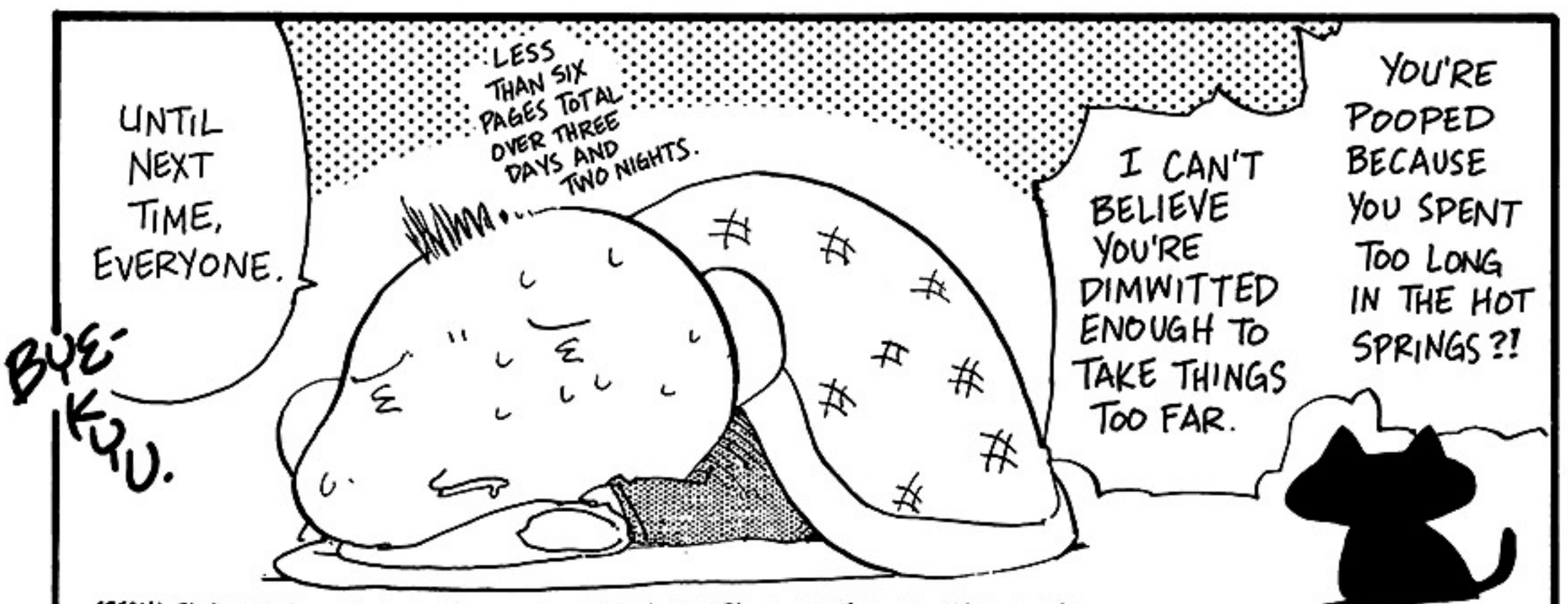

DID YOU DIE OF HAPPINESS NYA?


...BUT AS YOU CAN SEE, I AM BUSY WORKING.
IT MAY SOUND GLAMOROUS...

RECENTLY...
...I'VE BEEN SHUT UP AT HOME SO I DECIDED TO RUN AWAY TO AN ONSEN.







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TRIGUN MAXIMUM

YASUHIRO NIGHTOW

DEEP SPACE PLANET FUTURE GUN ACTION!!

8

MANGA/SCIENCE FICTION/ACTION

8 TRIGUN MAXIMUM

YASUHIRO NIGHTOW

DEEP SPACE PLANET FUTURE GUN ACTION!!

CAN VASH STOP KNIVES' MARCH OF DESTRUCTION?!

The tension in *Trigun Maximum* is getting to be almost unbearable! And not just the kind of tension supplied by Legato Bluesummer's freaky mind control. Knives' collection of plant brothers and sisters will cause widespread chaos and surely build his power beyond control, and the humans on the ground can do little to stop him. Not that he'll just have his way with Planet Gunsmoke! Vash is in a squeeze, for sure, but that's not enough to stop the altruistic human/alien with the superior flow!

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